

Hafa Adai!

Lien to Freedom Air assets
in Guam up in the air.

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MHS wins State Real World
Design Competition.

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'Limes' husband is person of interest'



Sylvestre R. Sablan walks outside the courtroom with corrections officers and his counsel, assistant public defender Michael Sato, after a bail hearing yesterday in Superior Court. Sablan was arrested for illegal possession of methamphetamine and two other charges for allegedly harassing a neighbor on Sunday midnight. The prosecution disclosed that the defendant is a person of interest in the murder of his wife, Ana Maria Limes.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A prosecutor revealed yesterday that Sylvestre Rogopes Sablan is a person of interest in the murder of his wife, Ana Maria Limes.

» **Husband arrested for 'ice,' disturbance on Sunday midnight**
» **Cop observes defendant acting weird, had bloodstains in pants, scratches in abdomen**

This developed as police arrested the 43-year-old Sablan on Tuesday night for illegal possession of a controlled substance, disturbing the peace, and criminal trespass for allegedly harassing a neighbor in Oleai on Sunday midnight.

At a bail hearing yesterday, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds disclosed that Sablan is a

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DPS releases photos of masked killer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety released yesterday nine photos of the masked man who fatally shot security guard James Patrick Deleon Guerrero at Royal Poker in Afetnas on Tuesday morning.

With the release of the photos, DPS is hoping that someone in the community could identify the gunman.

The still photos were taken from the footage of a video surveillance camera at Royal Poker.

DPS acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said the surveillance footage shows the armed suspect going inside the poker arcade and forcing Deleon Guerrero at gunpoint into the bathroom.



The suspect then approached the cashier window and the female cashier hid under the cashier's booth.

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Fitial agrees to enter plea deal

» **Change of plea hearing may be done through Skype**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial has agreed to enter a plea agreement with the government to resolve the criminal case against him without going to trial.



Fitial

In an order on Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set Fitial's case for a change of plea hearing on May 6, 2015, at 1:30pm.

This developed after special prosecutor George Hasselback, as counsel for the CNMI government, and Fitial's

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INSIDE



LOCAL

George "FIJI" Veikoso took the stage Saturday to hundred of screaming fans.

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BUSINESS

McDonald's is still a powerhouse, despite its recent troubles.

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LIFE & STYLE

"I'll be back" is the official slogan of the summer movie season.

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Local

PORT CALL

JOEL D. PINAROC

Executives of Win Win Way Construction Co. pose with CNMI officials during a port call on Tuesday at the Port of Saipan with the cargo vessel as backdrop. The ship is carrying about \$2 million to \$5 million worth of supplies and equipment that will be used to build Honest Profit International's hotel in San Antonio.



Lien to Freedom Air assets in Guam up in the air

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Guam airport chief Charles Ada told the Commonwealth Development Authority early this month that their lien on Freedom Air assets at the Guam

airport is imperfect, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Freedom Air's Cessna 207, Sherpa Cargo, and Piper airplanes have remained inaccessible to CDA, after a botched inspection of the Cessna plane last February shut CDA, a Free-

dom Air representative, and a prospective buyer out of the Guam airport hangar.

CDA and the Guam International Airport Authority have been corresponding over a plan for these assets. CDA says they have first-priority lien.

But Ada, it was learned, communicated GIAA's final position this month.

Essentially, GIAA claims that CDA has not shown that it has perfected its security interest in Freedom Air's assets.

CDA has not filed a financing statement for these assets with Guam's Department of Revenue and Taxation, *Saipan Tribune* learned. The Guam airport claims they are required to do so to perfect their claim.

CDA has offered evidence of how it properly perfected its lien, sharing copies of its security agreement with Freedom Air. This agreement was documented in Guam. They've also shared with Guam airport their aircraft security agreements with the Federal Aviation Administration.

But because CDA did not submit a UCC filing in Guam, their filings with the FAA Federal are moot, GIAA explained—because state law determines all priorities.

GIAA now believes it has priority over CDA, and an intention to proceed with the sale of Freedom Air property located within the Guam airport has been communicated, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

In an interview on Tuesday, CDA executive director Manuel Sablan indicated their position remains the same.

"Our position is we have a first lien...and that either we take possession of it and auction it, or have the Freedom Air sell it with our concurrence and the money comes to CDA," Sablan said.

According to Sablan, these assets are estimated by CDA—if auctioned—to be enough to cover the outstanding debt plus interest Freedom Air still owes CDA. That amount is some \$1.3

million, according to CDA.

The CDA counsel is now communicating with the Guam airport about their rights to those lien assets, Sablan said.

"Essentially, what [GIAA is] saying is they took possession of the premises and inside that premises, you have two sets of assets, one set belonging to Freedom Air without any lien, and those assets that belong to Freedom Air that CDA has a first priority lien... As far as we are concerned, the assets which we have priority lien belongs to CDA if those assets were to be disposed."

Freedom Air listed \$750,000 it owed the GIAA when it filed a bankruptcy petition in 2013. A Guam court dismissed this last year.

Last February, Guam airport officials abruptly halted Skydive Marianas' inspection of Freedom Air's Cessna 207 plane.

Parties involved in this botched inspection believe the Guam airport is looking to recover its losses—like when a car is abandoned with past dues in an auto shop and the mechanic collects what he can.

Depending on its condition, a Cessna 207 is estimated to sell around \$110,000 to \$160,000, it was learned. A Sherpa Cargo plane could sell around \$500,000, and Freedom Air's smaller aircraft could sell around \$10,000 to \$15,000, it was gathered.

CDA had requested access to Guam airport premises to secure a plan for the liquidation of those assets. They had asked that the Cessna, Sherpa Cargo plane, and any flyable aircraft be removed from the Guam hangar and secured at an approved designated place. Freedom Air employees cannot get

into the Guam hangar since they have been evicted.

CDA also requested that they have access to Freedom Air's company records and operations manual and documents, but it's unclear if that request has been heeded.

Freedom Air has flown in the CNMI for 37 years, but filed for bankruptcy in 2013. The FAA has issued a proposed revocation of their air carrier certificate since that time. The airline has until today to appeal, according to the FAA.

Public warned of high surf

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, fresh to occasionally strong trade winds and combined seas building to 8 to 10 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft until Friday morning, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management yesterday.

A small craft advisory is now in effect up to 11am Friday.

Fresh to occasionally strong trade winds up to 29 mph and combined seas building to 8 to 10 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through Friday morning. Highest seas are expected east of the islands.

The public is being advised to avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. A small craft advisory means that wind speeds of 24 to 38 mph are expected to produce hazardous wave conditions to small craft. (**HSEM**)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE CNMI JOINT MILITARY TRAINING DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The U.S. military announces the availability of the CNMI Joint Military Training Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) for public review. The Draft EIS/OEIS evaluates the potential impacts associated with the establishment of a series of live-fire ranges, training courses and maneuver areas in the CNMI (Tinian and Pagan) to reduce existing joint service training deficiencies and meet U.S. Pacific Command Service Components' unfilled unit and combined level training requirements in the Western Pacific. Existing military training areas and support facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly those in the CNMI are insufficient to support U.S. military training requirements. U.S. military training capabilities and capacity improvements are needed in the CNMI to ensure that the U.S. military can meet their U.S. Code Title 10 requirements to maintain, equip, and train combat and humanitarian forces in the Western Pacific.

The publication of the Notice of Public Meetings in the Federal Register on April 3, 2015 initiates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public comment period for the CNMI Joint Military Training Draft EIS/OEIS. Comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS may be submitted during the 60-day public comment period starting on April 3, 2015 Hawaii Standard Time (HST) (April 4, 2015 Chamorro Standard Time [ChST]). Comments should be postmarked or received by June 2, 2015 HST (June 3, 2015 ChST). Government agencies, private-sector organizations, and the public are encouraged to participate in the NEPA process and public meetings for the Draft EIS/OEIS. The U.S. Marine Corps on behalf of U.S. Pacific Command will host public meetings on Saipan and Tinian.

The public is invited to attend the following public meetings:

SAIPAN:

- Wednesday, April 29, 2015
Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- Friday, May 1, 2015
Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

TINIAN:

- Thursday, April 30, 2015
Tinian Junior Senior High School Cafeteria
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Each meeting will begin with an open house session where the public can learn more about the proposed action and potential environmental impacts from project team members and subject matter experts. A public hearing will follow the open house. In the interest of available time, participants will be limited to three minutes to ensure all who wish to submit verbal comments have an opportunity to do so. A Chamorro and Carolinian interpreter will be available.

Concurrent with the NEPA process, the U.S. military is conducting National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation regarding potential effects of the proposed action on historic properties. During each of the above meetings, the U.S. military will hold NHPA Section 106 information sessions in a separate area where subject matter experts will explain the NHPA Section 106 process and solicit public input on the effects of the proposed action on historic properties.

There are three ways to submit written comments: (1) providing comments at one of the public meetings; (2) submitting comments through the project website: www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com; and (3) mailing comments postmarked by June 3, 2015 ChST to:

Mail comments to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific
Attn: 09PA, Public Affairs Office
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
JBPBH, HI 96860-3134

Tinian lawmakers back mayor in ongoing lawsuit

Members of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation approved Tuesday a resolution to support Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas as he faces a lawsuit filed by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

"I have been sued for following the law," said San Nicolas after the delegation's session.

Sens. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian), Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) and Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Tinian) voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

San Nicolas was sued in March for allegedly refusing to pay the salaries of Tinian casino

commission executive director Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita and commission inspector Lisa-Marie B. Aguon.

The commission, which increased the salaries of the two executives in December, alleges that Maratita, Aguon, and the other affected commission employees were paid only the amounts set forth for them in the Budget Act.

Tinian municipal treasurer Charlene M. Lizama was also named as one of the defendants in the lawsuit.

Tinian Local Ordinance 18-3 set a \$4.281-million municipal budget from Tinian's

casino industry revenue for fiscal year 2015.

Some of the provisions of the law fund the personnel and operations of the casino commission, Tinian Municipal Treasury, and the Office of the

Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan for fiscal 2015.

In the lawsuit, the casino commission, Blanco-Maratita, and Aguon alleged that beginning with the fourth pay period for fiscal year 2015, acting on

San Nicolas' instructions, Lizama refused to issue paychecks to them and other affected employees in the amounts certified by the commission.

They alleged that other affected commission employees were also paid only the amounts set forth for them in the Budget Act. They asked the Superior

Court to compel San Nicolas and Lizama to remit the full salaries of affected employees.

The complainants also asked the court to invalidate three Tinian local laws that were enacted by the Tinian Legislative Delegation since 2004 that reportedly infringe on the powers of the commission. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**

Legislators to address budget resolution in Friday's session

By **JOEL PINAROC**
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REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives are set to officially address a resolution to adopt the \$148.5-million budget proposed by the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos for fiscal year 2016.

The House of Representatives has included the budget resolution as part of the agenda in a session scheduled on Friday.

Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, filed House Concurrent Resolution 19-01, detailing the proposed budget.

After adopting the resolution, lawmakers will then convene government departments and conduct budget hearings.

Sablan said the "bigger" departments will most likely have first crack at the budget hearings, including the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., particularly Medical Referral, and Department of Finance.

Sablan said lawmakers want

to find out what has been done to encourage tax compliance, as well as the proper recording of tax obligations, particularly income tax.

The collection of taxes falls under the Revenue and Tax Division of the Finance Department.

Sablan said one of these concerns is the declining income tax collection. He said there are a lot businesses coming up and the tourism industry is apparently booming. However, income tax collection continues to decline, the lawmaker said. He added that tax collections in other areas have been increasing and that the decline in income tax collection has been happening in 2014 and 2013.

In a separate interview, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerreo (R-Saipan) said he will ask his colleagues in the House to make the budget hearing for the Marianas Visitors Authority one of its priorities.

Guerrero said he will take the opportunity to clarify a few questions with the MVA during the hearings, particularly funding.

Bill wants tighter rein on car rentals

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) wants operators of car rental companies in the CNMI to be held liable to settle traffic violations committed by their customers.

There have been cases where a car rental customer, most likely a tourist, gets a traffic citation but often leaves the island without settling the citation.

This has become problematic for traffic enforcers and most of these citations go unresolved.

Demapan will introduce House Bill 19-53 on a House session on Friday.

"The increase in visitor arrivals has resulted in an increase in vehicle rental businesses and inventory. This bill seeks to ensure that any liability for traffic infractions will be settled accordingly. In the event, the operator of a rented vehicle leaves island without settling his traffic citation, the rental company will then be the liable party," Demapan said.

Demapan added that he offers this bill "amid emerging public concerns about the safety of motorists and pedestrians on our roadways."

"What this does is it encourages car rental companies to properly educate their customers about the rules of the road before the vehicle is released for rent. This is a safety issue for everyone who commutes on our roadways," Demapan said.

The lawmaker said he consulted with the involved agencies, including the Department

of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, and the Marianas Visitors Authority on the filing of the proposed bill.

"The feedback I received from them have been taken into account in this final version," he said.

H.B 19-53 also proposes car rental companies to be stricter in requiring driver's licenses from customers, as well as an English translation of a contract or agreement that the customer must sign, among others. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**



The owner of New Grand Market in Lower Navy Hill receives \$1,000 cash prize from the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) on behalf of a lucky winner, who requested anonymity. The first-time lucky winner purchased two Quick Cash tickets on Saturday evening using spare change. The player first scratched a \$10 winning ticket followed by the winning \$1,000. There are more prizes to win! NMASA would like to bid good luck to all the players.

Godfather's
BEACH HOUSE BAR
SAIPAN

CHILI CHILI CHILI

\$500 - 1st Place
\$300 - 2nd Place
\$200 - 3rd Place

IT&E
Life in Motion

CONTEST

\$20 cash entrance fee per crock pot
Register **NOW** at Godfather's Bar or Godfather's Beach House Bar.
Deadline to register **Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 4pm.**
Judging will start at **6pm, Saturday, May 2, 2015**
at Godfather's Beach House Bar.

Cook your Chili at home and bring to Godfather's Beach House Bar in a crock pot before 4pm, Saturday, May 2, 2015.

Plus fabulous consolation prizes!

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Resort & SPA
SAIPAN

JOETEN ENTERPRISES, INC.

Some proceeds from this event will be donated to Marianas March Against Cancer

Tan Holdings, KHS team up for 2015 MMAC

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team Tan Holdings/Kagman High School will be joining the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer, the signature event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

The team's captains are Glicerio "Eli" Arago and Eric Magofna and the combined team will be involved in their 10th year with the MMAC.

"We formed our team be-

cause we wanted to incorporate more spirit and energy into the event and invited KHS," Arago said.

Team Tan Holdings/KHS plans to have additional activities and raise more funds for MMAC than previous years.

Arago's word of advice to the public when considering forming a team is that "when you partner with a team, you form a support group to achieve a goal."

Tan Holdings also holds an

annual walk, which helps support the 2015 MMAC. Arago said the JP and Cancer Alertness Walk was a success again this year, raising more than \$5,000 for the MMAC.

"The money that we collected are mostly from the employees' pledges. They collected the amount from their friends, relatives, and family members," he said.

More than 200 walkers showed up for the Saturday event supporting the JP and

Cancer Alertness Walk.

"Thanks for all the help from the employees and their hard work in soliciting the funds raise. It's not that big but with the support of the whole company it was successful. We worked on the walk for three weeks and saw a good number and hopefully next year we can raise more and have more walkers," Arago said.

The 2015 MMAC will be held at the Hopwood Junior High School field from May 1 to 2.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

KHS to host Cultural Day Carnival

Kagman High School will be hosting a Cultural Day Carnival that will be open to the public on Friday, April 24, 2015, from 12pm to 3pm. Come and join in on the festivities and food that the students have to offer as well as experience the different cultures that will be showcased by our students in different ways. Everyone from the community is welcome to join in on the fun! (KHS)

San Jose Church raffle

This is to inform all individuals holding raffle tickets for San Jose Church that all tickets must be turned in no later than Wednesday, April 29. Feel free to call the church at 433-3000 if you have any questions. (PR)

OAG temporary relocation

The Office of the Attorney General's Criminal division has temporarily relocated to the former Commonwealth Board of Election Office. The building is located between the CNMI Judiciary and the Multipurpose Center. Please contact the Criminal division at 237-7600 for further assistance.

CCA board meeting on April 28

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's Board of Directors will be holding its regular board of directors meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

OPA staff to be on Rota, Tinian

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on April 27-28, 2015, and on Tinian on April 29, 2015, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials.

Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 9am to 4:30pm on Monday, April 27, 2015, and from 9am to 11am on Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Mayor's Office from 8:30am to 4:30pm on Wednesday, April 29, 2015.

All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. (OPA)



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CUP

The Attorney General's Cup Speech competition steering committee discusses this year's topic: same-sex marriage. Students from eight of the island's high schools will deliver speeches on same-sex marriage at this year's Attorney General's Cup Speech competition on April 30, 2015, at 10am.

See story on Page 6

DENNIS B. CHAN

LIMES

From Page 1

person of interest in the murder of his wife and asked the court to increase Sablan's \$5,500 cash bail to \$50,000 cash.

Before the prosecutor made the revelation, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman asked Sablan for the name of his wife.

Sablan answered in a low voice, "Ana Limes."

"She's the one that had just been killed, right?" Wiseman asked, to which Sablan replied in a low voice, "Yes."

Citing Sablan's prior criminal cases as well as the prosecution's statement that he's a person of interest in the murder of Limes, Wiseman increased the bail to \$25,000 cash and set some conditions.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato, who was appointed as counsel for Sablan, said the court should keep the bail at \$5,500 as it is not appropriate to increase the bail amount based on a future criminal case.

Wiseman said that Sato's position is well taken but the court is more concerned with Sablan's previous criminal history.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 29 at 9am and arraignment will be on May 4 at 9am.

Police detective Rudolfo Saures Hermosilla Jr. stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety's dispatcher received a call on Sunday at 12:36am from a female who claimed that someone was yelling and

causing a disturbance outside their house in Oleai.

At 12:44am, a police officer responded and arrived at the location and saw Daniel Lisua, who was holding a baseball bat.

Lisua, the father of the caller, told the officer that Sablan was inside his outside kitchen located behind his house and that he believes Sablan "is losing it."

Lisua told the officer that Sablan was walking around his house and was talking loudly to himself.

The officer approached Sablan, identified himself, greeted him, and asked what he was doing. The suspect raised his right hand and showed a small clear zip lock bag containing a white crystal-like substance.

Sablan then threw the bag as the officer secured him in handcuffs. He told the officer that it's not "ice" in the bag but salt.

While the officer was patting him down, Sablan stated, "Officer, I am sorry but I can make you rich. I didn't sleep for three days already because I smoked Santa Lourdes rocks."

Sablan also allegedly asked the officer if he wanted \$1 million or \$2 million because he was going to make him rich.

The officer noticed what appeared to be bloodstains on Sablan's pants. The officer also saw scratches on Sablan's abdomen.

When asked how he got the scratches on his stomach, Sablan replied that it's nothing and that he doesn't know. He kept saying that he smoked "ice" and that he also smoked salt, that is why he's acting like that.

Lisua's girlfriend told police that she heard dogs barking outside their house while she was watching TV. When she looked out the window, she saw someone walking back and forth outside their house.

The woman opened the door but closed it when she did not see anyone. After closing the door, she heard loud banging outside the door she had just closed.

She got scared and asked who it was. When the person said it's Syl, she thought it was her nephew so she opened the door a bit. When she saw it was not her nephew but a man holding a stick, she immediately closed the door.

The man, later identified as Sablan, pushed the door, but the woman managed to lock it. She then instructed her daughter to call the police.

While her daughter was calling the police, the woman ran to her boyfriend, Lisua, who was sleeping at the time and woke him up.

Lisua said he heard the dogs barking so he looked out the window and saw a man walking around his property and talking to himself in a very loud voice. Lisua identified the man as his neighbor, Sablan.

Sablan apologized to Lisua and offered him "ice." Lisua refused and told him to leave. Sablan refused, saying that someone was chasing him and pointed to an area, but there was no one there.

Lisua said that, while waiting for police to arrive, Sablan kept offering him "ice," telling him

it's worth \$50 and good for both of them. Lisua turned the offer down.

A police officer later tested the contents of the bag that Sablan was holding and determined that it tested presumptively positive for the presence of methamphetamine.

Sablan was detained at the Department of Corrections but was later released as police conducted further investigation.

On Tuesday at 9:04pm, police served Sablan with an arrest warrant at Quartermaster in connection with the disturbance and "ice" possession.

Limes, 52, a former staff assistant of Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), was found dead inside her house on Monday shortly after noon.

Patrol officers were dispatched to the scene after police received a call on Monday at 12:12pm of a suspicious bloody room at the residence of Limes in San Jose or Oleai Village.

Patrol officers found Limes' body at the entrance to the house's front living room door. She showed signs of having been deceased for some time already, with fatal injuries to the head. She and Sablan reportedly got married only two weeks ago, the victim's relative said.

Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that all who worked with Limes are greatly saddened to learn of her tragic and untimely passing.

"We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and will be keeping Ding [Limes] in our prayers," the congressman said.

FITIAL

From Page 1

counsel, Stephen Nutting, appeared for an in-chamber conference with Wiseman on Tuesday.

Wiseman said the change of plea hearing, however, will be subject to the court being satisfied that the technology can allow for a change of plea by international communication through Skype.

Fitial is reportedly in the Philippines for medical rehabilitation.

The judge ordered Fitial's counsel, Nutting, and special prosecutor Hasselback to appear at the hearing date.

DPS

From Page 1

Gunshots followed and then the gunman fled the scene on foot toward Beach Road, San Antonio. Police were contacted and responded at 5:47am.

Tarkong said police discovered the body of the 39-year-old Deleon Guerrero in the bathroom. Police said the victim was shot in the back.

A source said the gunman possibly used a revolver pistol.

The suspect is described as about 5'8" to 5'10" tall and medium built. He was wearing a gray military pattern dress uni-

form with black mask covering his face.

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said they would like some forensic analysis done first before they release information as to what type of handgun was used.

The commissioner said the suspect failed to get any money from the poker arcade because the cashier had locked herself inside the cashier's booth.

The victim, a resident of Chalan Kanoa, is a first cousin of Commissioner Deleon Guerrero. When the shooting happened, his minor son and common-law wife were in Guam.

Rota retirees sign petition against HLB 19-21

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
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REPORTER

More than 100 retirees and pension beneficiaries residing on Rota signed a petition urging Gov. Eloy S. Inos to reject House Local Bill 19-21.

The petition was sent to Inos' office on Wednesday, according to Pedro Q. Dela Cruz, former vice chair of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, one of the signatories of the petition.

The petition cited amend-

ments being introduced by HLB 19-21 that can be "detrimental to the livelihood of retirees and beneficiaries" relying solely on retirement benefits.

The 19th Rota Legislative Delegation on March 20 adopted HLB 19-21 on first and final reading in a session on Rota.

Unlike a House bill, the proposed legislation will not go through the House of Representatives or the Senate and will instead be transmitted directly to the Office of the Gov-

ernor for signing.

One of the amendments of HLB 19-21 is on the \$2 million fund allocated for Rota and Tinian, which will be used to pay the 25 percent reduction of retirees' and beneficiaries' pensions.

The \$2 million came from an exclusive gaming license in accordance to Public Law 18-56.

But HLB 19-21 proposes to reallocate and transfer the \$2 million to the Rota Municipal Treasurer, thus changing the primary objective of PL 18-56.

The funds are currently being deposited into sub-accounts for the First and Second Senatorial Districts.

This amendment deletes the mandate to pay the retirees first, as mandated by PL 18-56.

HLB 19-21 also replaces the deleted language with a new objective, stating that "Section (1) Supplement the First Senatorial District Retirees and Beneficiaries until such time that the Commonwealth Government is able to pay the entire obligation."

According to the petition, this language "is not definitive and can be interpreted in many different opinions."

The petition stated that HLB 19-21 "grants the Rota Legislative Delegation carte blanche authority to reprogram the allotted funds and can redirect the usage of the funds according to their political priorities thus leaving the fate of the retirees at their mercy."

The petition further said the manner in which the bill passed the Senate during the Rota regu-

lar session "is also questionable and beg the question of whether the 'Open Government Act' is violated because this bill was not published in the agenda. There was no committee report nor input from the public."

Among the more than 100 retirees that signed the petition are Julian S. Calvo, former Senate president of the 5th Legislature; Denise "Tanya" R. King, a retiree and member of the Board of Education of the Public School System; Carmen H. Atalig, a retiree and a former school principal; and retired Sgt. Major Herman M. Atalig.

IN ONGOING JURY TRIAL OF TOVES

Prosecution, defense rest »Judge grants motion for acquittal as to 1 count

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The prosecution and the defense rested yesterday in the ongoing jury trial of former Rota Finance Procurement and Supply acting administrator Tilford S. Toves at the Superior Court on Rota.

Saipan Tribune learned that Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who presided over the trial, granted assistant public defender Mathew Meyer's motion to acquit Toves on a charge of restricted use of government vehicle.

Jury deliberations on the other charges began yesterday and will resume today, Thursday.

The prosecution rested after its fifth witness of the day, Drug Enforcement Administration forensic chemist Shawn Carter, completed his testimony.

Meyer then moved for judg-

ment of acquittal.

In acquitting Toves on the charge of restricted use of government vehicle, Camacho noted that the only testimony for this charge was from Rota Department of Public Safety police officer and case investigator Francis Manglona, who said that he used to drive the car the defendant was driving several years ago.

Eventually the car was transferred to the Department of Finance.

Camacho ruled that there was no evidence as to the title of the car if it was owned by Finance or the CNMI government.

Further, the judge noted that Manglona testified that he could not determine if Toves was at the airport for purposes of his job.

Camacho said it was not the

job of Toves to prove that he owns the car as the prosecution

has the burden to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the vehicle belongs to the government.

Camacho said a simple copy of the vehicle registration from the Rota DPS Motor Vehicle Division could have satisfied the element of proof, but no such evidence was provided to

the court.

Meyer did not call any witness and also rested.

The trial began on Monday. The jury will decide as to the charge of conspiracy to commit trafficking of a controlled substance. With the dismissal of the charge of restricted use of

government vehicle, Camacho will decide only to one count of attempted illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Police officers arrested Toves and then-Commonwealth Health Center administrative staff Berlinda C. Flawau in June 2014 for alleged "ice" trafficking on Rota.

31 Marine enlistees since FY 2014

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 31 individuals from the Commonwealth have so far enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps since fiscal year 2014 up to the present, according to Marine Corps Permanent Contact Station Saipan recruiter Staff Sgt. Rodney Deleon Guerrero.

Of the 31 enlistees, 13 were either attending or new graduates from Marianas High School, nine were from Saipan Southern High School, six were from Kagman High School, and three either attended a private school, an off-island institute, or the Northern Marianas College.

He said 22 already left for boot camp and are either currently training or graduating from recruit training.

Deleon Guerrero said that nine are still on island waiting for their reported time to ship to recruit training in San Diego, California.

He conceded that the recruitment numbers has been flat in the last two years.

"The mission each month has been the same since I've been here the last four months," he said.

During the recruiting process, each applicant goes through a

screening process.

"This is to determine whether they are morally, physically, and mentally qualified for service in the Marine Corps. Once they enlist we will enter them into our Delayed Entry Program, which is designed to prepare them mentally and physically for the rigors of the 13-week recruit training evolution," he said.

As a recruiter he usually sets two appointments each day, which gives time for additional walk-ins occurring throughout the day.

"While canvassing at the local schools I would be interacting with over 15 kids. On a given day I make contact with about 15 individuals via telephone. I also give career presentations periodically to a predetermined group of students, which range from about 20 to 35 students," he said.

Deleon Guerrero assumed his post last Jan. 20 as the new recruiter for the Marine Corps' Saipan-based recruitment office. He provides students with details on the benefits and opportunities they will get by joining the Marine Corps.

For those interested in becoming a Marine, contact the Marine Corps recruiting office at 235-1881.

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The Marianas High School Aeronautical Dolphins celebrate with teachers and parents their recent victory in the State Real World Design Challenge.

DENNIS B. CHAN

MHS wins State Real World Design Competition

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas High School

Aeronautical Dolphins have won for a fourth year in a row the Pacific Real World Design Competition.

The seven-member team is set to compete in Washington, D.C. in the national competition late this year.

The MHS team beat out Guam, American Samoa, and other regional schools in the state competition with their 35-foot wingspan design of a remote controlled plane named the "Skywalker."

The winning team is made up of Ann Norcio, Edna Nisola, Masrur Alam, Jun Young Kim, Matthew Cao, Scarlet Chen, and Robert Malate.

Norcio, the project manager and a sophomore, said their aircraft system is designed to spill pesticide over crops without a

pilot guiding it.

"That's one of the challenges," she said. "It's a really big plane that has to fly itself."

Norcio said they also made the plane but the design is what they submitted.

"For the past six months, the team has been coming in the classroom everyday after school and Saturdays and Sundays," she said of their efforts.

The most important thing she learned was teamwork. "It was really hard for us to get together. We only have one veteran. So we had to take up the challenge."

MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera said their win is a result of hard work and effort.

"I'm so excited because having escorted the students last

year [to Washington, D.C.], they were up against the best of the best in the whole nation and really the purpose of this project is to get students interested in science and engineering," she said, adding that she hopes this inspires other students as well.

The group's teacher, John Raulerson, echoed Cabrera, saying, "We just work hard."

"We don't know what our competitors are doing, so we make the competition on ourselves. We've been working everyday for the last four months. We've been working hard very diligently, and this is a product of our hard work."

Moving forward, the team can expect the next challenge to be more difficult, with more designing needed, Raulerson said.

The team will be working over the summer.

"Our goal is not just to be in Washington, D.C., but be competitive and also possibly bring that national championship back to the CNMI."

The Aeronautical Dolphins won the national championship in 2013.

He said his students have "tenacity," adding that some students can handle the work and some can't. "But you are left with the last students standing, and they handle the workload. When we submitted our notebook, it was one minute before deadline. That's how tenacious these students are. They want to get everything correct. Every 't' crossed, Every 'i' dotted," he said.

AG's Cup to focus on same-sex marriage

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of Attorney General has chosen a timely issue for this year's Attorney General's Cup speech competition this April 30, 2015 at 10am.

Students from eight of the island's high schools will deliver speeches on same-sex marriage—what Attorney General Edward Manibusan calls a "fast evolving and contentious issue."

Specifically, the students are asked: "Should the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands follow the lead of the 37 states and the District of Columbia and allow marriages between two people of the same sex? Why or why not?"

On April 28, the U.S. Supreme Court will likewise hear oral arguments on same-sex marriage. They are expected to issue a

written opinion in late June.

The AG notes this decision will affect the CNMI islands but added they chose the topic back in January, even before the Supreme Court took it up.

When asked what his position on the issue is, he quipped that he'd "leave that up to the students."

Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, who founded the competition when he was AG, echoed Manibusan, noting how prevalent this question is.

"Every candidate that is running for U.S. President—that's one of questions asked by the media," Castro said. "What do you think about this, how do you feel about this topic?"

"I'm just glad AG Manibusan chose a topic that is boiling, boiling hot around us. It would be interesting for the students to give us their perspective. We are going into the minds of the

future leaders of the Commonwealth. We want to see what they think," he said.

Manibusan said the Cup is about "supporting students and their role in society." They will learn to analyze, speak, argue, and convince the audience of which side is the right position, he said. "This competition is tremendous."

Castro thanked the AG competition's steering committee for their hard work.

Next week's event will take place in the Supreme Court courtroom. The public is invited to attend and support the students. For the last 31 years, the Cup has covered a range of topics from the death penalty to economic development and immigration.

For more information, contact Carla Torres at the Office of the Attorney General at 237-7500.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-CHCC/CGC-074 (A)(B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 18, 2015 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF TEN (10) DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND FOUR (4) PRINTERS, FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHC

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-076 (CIF-ROTA)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 15, 2015 **TIME: 10:00 AM**

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2014 OR LATEST MODEL POLICE PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES FOR ROTA DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

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/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY • CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DPW-087

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 19, 2015 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

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/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
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TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, : **CIVIL ACTION**
Plaintiff, : **NO. 13-0067**

-v- :
ENRIQUE Q. SALAS and ROSARIO T. SALAS, :
Defendants. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 27, 2015, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 002 G 245, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 903 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1980, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 22, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 16th day of April, 2015:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

FIJI and friends' concert a big hit on Saipan

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The FIJI Live on Saipan concert was a big hit as the main event—George “FIJI” Veikoso himself—took the stage to hundreds of screaming fans last Saturday, April 18, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan beachside.

His vocal range of base and falsetto shone throughout the night, with fans going crazy over every major hits he performed. His musical blends of reggae, hip-hop, rhythm and blues, and jazz made the crowd feel right at home.

Other popular artists from Hawaii also mesmerized the crowd, hitting all the right notes to get the fans going before the main event.

Kolohe Kai—a local Hawaii reggae band—was a big hit as well. Popular among CNMI

residents back in 2009, fans were greeted with memories of listening to the band's music when they hit the stage.

Popular songs such as *This is the Life*, *Cool Down*, and *Ehu Girl* got the crowd singing while Kolohe Kai's lead singer and songwriter, Roman De Peralta, held his microphone in the air and sang along with the audience.

DJ Hapa Boy (Taylor Tadanini), who is also from Hawaii, livened up the crowd during intermissions with his sick beats, while Nakii Ninja, a female artist and vocalist who is half-Chamorro, rocked the crowd with her island-style music.

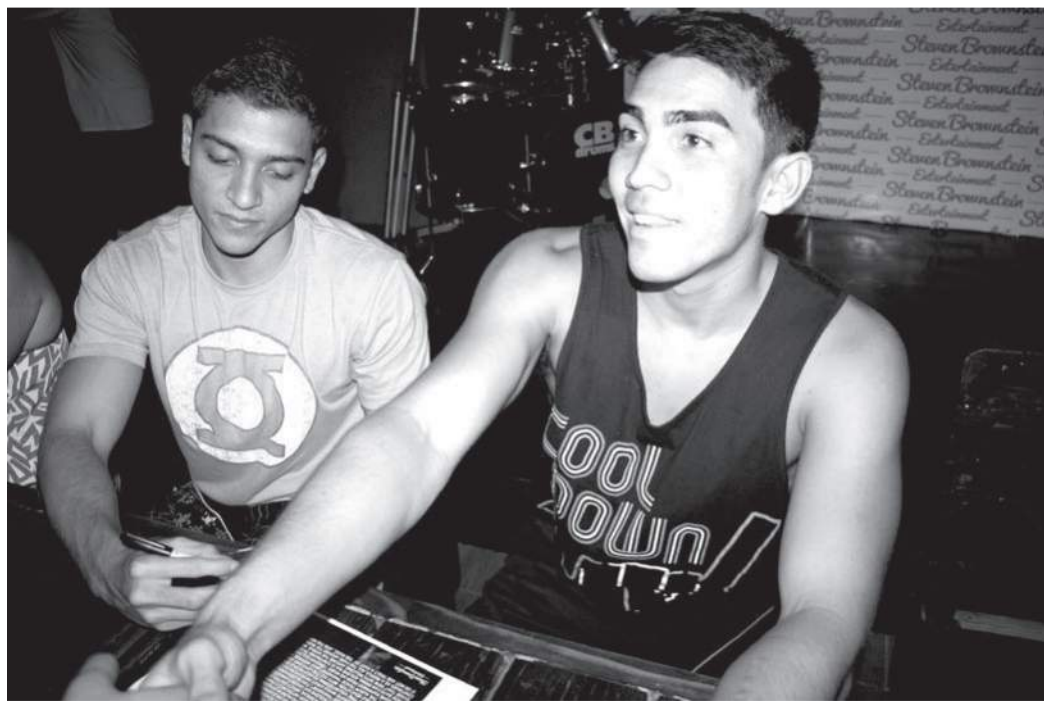
Siaosi Taulani Jr. and Kiwini Vaitai's hip-hop and island-style rhythms were popular among fans as well.

Nola K. Hix, concert promotions coordinator, said that the success of the “Jboog Live on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Long-time artist George “FIJI” Veikoso signs a ukulele for a young fan at Naked Fish last Friday.



THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Kolohe Kai lead singer Roman De Peralta, right, signs autographs for fans at last week's press conference before their concert at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on Saturday.

SIDE BAR

FIJI, Kolohe Kai talk culture and music

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

They are the biggest names in the island music industry. Kolohe Kai, FIJI, DJ Hapa Boy, and other Hawaiian artists drew hundreds of people to Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's beachfront for the second biggest concert on island last Saturday.

After the chaos of rehearsing, setting up, and performing is silenced, these artists hope that the audience understands that culture and family are at the center of the meaning of their songs.

“We always try to write songs that will help them make good decisions in life. We want to spread the good ‘Aloha vibe,’” Kolohe Kai lead singer Roman De Peralta told *Saipan Tribune* at a news briefing with the musicians at Naked Fish last Friday.

Peralta said the primary reason for their visit to Saipan is for the youth.

“It is such an honor to be here. We wanted to come here for a long time. Youth around the Pacific is our target audience. It is so nice to have visited the schools and see the faces of our next generation.”

As a child, Peralta drew inspiration from the ocean when writing his first songs as a 15-year-old with a group of friends. “The ocean is something I fell strongly about. It is something very therapeutic.”

The lead singer explained that his songs also revolve around the importance of family and for people not to be materialistic.

“No matter how many things you get, time with people you love is much more valuable. I try to make music with that...,” he said. “The simple things are so much richer than

what society teaches us.”

George “FIJI” Veikoso expressed similar sentiment and said that combining culture and music is what makes their performances even more meaningful and unique.

“Music and culture can co-exist. That is what makes island music such a beautiful thing,” he said. “It is so beautiful to see that the music we play is traveling to other places that do not even know what island life is back.”

A musician's primary goal, he said, is to be in touch with their spirit.

“Music is a way of life. Culture has kept us alive for thousands of years.”

FIJI added that it is necessary to always maintain your culture's way of life. “Regardless of popularity, it is necessary to always maintain our way of life in order to keep up with the music industry,” he said.

Saipan” concert series last Jan. 10 by Steven Brownstein made the second concert possible.

In a short interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Brownstein said he is looking forward to making another concert possible.

“On behalf of Steven Brownstein Entertainment

we'd like to thank our platinum sponsors Mega Stars/Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Alter City Group, and Best Sunshine along with our major sponsors KZMI FM, and Priority Care Services. We'd also like to give a special thank you to MARPAC Distributors/Am-

bro's Guam for their platinum sponsorship in support of the show [in] Guam next weekend,” Hix said.

The concert started at 6:30pm with several of the islands' local bands and musicians performing. It ended at 11:30pm with a fireworks display.



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Tan Holdings, IT&E, Ambyth are newest MMAC sponsors

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tan Holdings, IT&E, and Ambyth Shipping Micronesia Inc. were added yesterday to the growing roster of sponsors for the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer. Tan Holdings and IT&E are title sponsors, while Ambyth is a major sponsor.

Tan Holdings donated more than \$5,700 that was raised from last Saturday's JP and Cancer Alertness Walk.

Eli Arago, executive vice president for Tan Holdings, said the company has been donating to the MMAC for the past eight years.

"It's a good cause and I feel happy that we donated but I feel like we have to do more next year, meaning more coverage and involvement in the community," Arago said.

IT&E gave \$5,000 in in-kind

donations. IT&E is one of the oldest continuous sponsors of the MMAC and the 2015 MMAC committee expressed their genuine and heartfelt gratitude for IT&E's untiring support in the fight against cancer.

This is Ambyth's second year as a sponsor of the MMAC.

Josh P. Dandan, group quality assurance manager and human resource manager, said their sponsorship is intended to show their support in the fight against cancer.

"Cancer is a dreadful disease and Ambyth wants to show its support through its annual contribution. Unfortunately cancer continues to touch so many lives, including several members of the Ambyth family. We look forward to participating as a team in the coming years," Dandan said.

Businesses, individuals, and organizations that also wish to support the 2015 MMAC may



Ambyth Shipping Micronesia Inc. donates \$1,000 to the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer committee and Commonwealth Cancer Association staff and board.

donate funds, services, or raffle items. Sponsorship levels include title sponsor (donating \$3,000 or more), major sponsor (donating \$1,000 to \$2,999), or supporting sponsorship (donat-

ing \$1 to \$999).

Title sponsors this year are Delta Air Lines, Bank of Guam, Tan Holdings, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Joeten Daidai Foundation, Sorensen

Media Group Saipan, *Marianas Variety*, and IT&E. Major sponsors are Xerox, Brabu Pharmacy, Traders Insurance, Jeff Hofschneider and Friends, Saipan Mayor's Office, Bridge Capital LLC, and Ambyth Shipping Micronesia Inc.

The 2015 MMAC will be held at the Hopwood Junior High School field from May 1 to 2.

Money raised from MMAC is used by CCA to promote cancer awareness and prevention, provide patient support services, and serve as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI.

For donations, call committee chair Nola Hix at 989-6652 or email her at nola.hix@gmail.com.

FESTPAC committee seeks artists' statements of interest

The Northern Mariana Islands' Festival of Pacific Arts Organizing Committee is soliciting response from CNMI artisans interested in participating in the 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam.

The FESTPAC Organizing Committee is asking groups and individuals interested in representing the CNMI in any of the following categories to contact the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture by Tuesday, April 28:

■ **Performing arts:** traditional dance, drama/theatre, oral chants, oratory and storytelling, music, and Jamz House

■ **Literary Arts:** traditional storytelling/oratory, publications (Pacific Island stories and novels or Pacific biographies and journals), history, theater, fashion, indigenous language.

■ **Demonstrations/exhibition:** visual arts, floral arts, culinary arts, canoe and navigation, children's art show, photography, tattooing, traditional healing, body ornamentation, carving works, blacksmithing, handicrafts, film festival, traditional games.

■ **Demonstration/Exhibition:** fire walking, weaving, fishing and hunting traditions

■ **Forums, workshops, seminars**

The 12th Festival of Pacific Arts will be held on May 22-June 4, 2016, in Guam. The committee is preparing the CNMI application to FESTPAC and needs to report what categories it will be participating in by April 30, 2015. Several meetings have been held already with performing groups, but the committee is

also seeking interest from all types of participants.

"The FESTPAC is the premier cultural festival held every four years celebrating the diverse indigenous cultures that tie fellow Pacific Islanders together as one proud people of our vast 'Blue Continent.' If any artisan or craftsman is interested in representing our NMI at next year's 12th FESTPAC in Guam, we need to hear from you by 4pm this coming Tuesday, April 28, 2015," said FESTPAC Organizing Committee chair John DLR "Bolis" Gonzales. "After we receive confirmation of participation interests by the deadline and selection per approved criteria, we will be working on a formal budget request to our 19th Legislature and Gov. [Eloy S.] Inos to accommodate as many selected official delegates as possible, hopefully at least 150 participants per participating country quota."

Interested groups and individuals should contact Feofaaki McMahon at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at fe_mcmahon@yahoo.com or 670.322.9982/3. The selection of participants will be made by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

The organization is also composed of the following subcommittees: Program, co-chaired by Gordon I. Marciano and Frances M. Sablan; Logistics, co-chaired by Jose T. Limes and Parker Yobech; and Finance, with Margaret "Abik" R. Muna and Martin F. Duenas as co-treasurers. (PR)



IT&E donates \$5,000 in in-kind contribution as a title sponsor of the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer. IT&E's sales and marketing manager Hans W. Mickelson, fourth from right, join 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer committee and Commonwealth Cancer Association staff and board for a group photo.



Tan Holdings Co. executive vice president Eli Arago, fifth from left, corporate consultant David Sablan, sixth from left, and president Jerry Tan present a check for more than \$5,700 to the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer committee and Commonwealth Cancer Association staff and board.

5 Peace Corps Response volunteers arrive in FSM

Over the past 15 years, Peace Corps Response has offered seasoned U.S. professionals the opportunity to undertake short-term, high-impact assignments to address development priorities around the world. Now, Peace Corps has offered this program to the Federated States of Micronesia, and five new PCR volunteers have arrived; four education accreditation specialists and a behavior change communication specialist. All of them have advanced degrees and an average of over two decades of experience; they will help with building local capacity for 12 months.

Peace Corps acting country director Monica Collier performed the formal swearing in of the five new Peace Corps Response volunteers on April 17 at the governor's conference room in Kolonia. Acting governor Marcelo Peterson welcomed and congratulated the volunteers on their commitment to service.

The primary mission of the education accreditation specialists is to ensure that the PCRV's assigned schools meet the accreditation requirements for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the FSM Accreditation Procedures. Each specialist, along with their counterparts, will strengthen Educational Programming of FSM schools through their School Improvement Plan. The behavior change communications specialist will assist the IFCP counterparts to develop a targeted communications strategy and education pro-



gram that aims to create behavior change in young children and their caregivers.

The education accreditation specialists are Esther "Neen" Hunt in Madolenihmw, Elizabeth MacNabb in Kitt, Floyd Hines in Nett, and Natalie Linton Sokehs. Nancy Hines will be working with the Island Food Community of Pohnpei as a behavior change communications specialist. (*U.S. Embassy Kolonia*)

From left, Floyd Hines, Nancy Hines, Natalie Linton, Elizabeth MacNabb, and Esther "Neen" Hunt.

U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA

JUDGE IN THE CLASSROOM

Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, who is conducting a jury trial on Rota, was invited to the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja to speak to the students. Each year the CNMI Judiciary conducts a community outreach called "Judges in the Classroom." The student enjoyed asking questions and learning about the law and the court. Seen in the group photo are the students (elementary and junior high students). One student even wore the judge's robe and raised Camacho's 10-lb stainless steel gavel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-020

Opening Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2015
Closing Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Fiscal Assistant: Meter Reader

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or designee. Updates and verifies customer account or work order information; enters and balances payment data; prepares timekeeping records; may work in the field obtaining and entering customer utility meter information, and replacing or disconnecting utility meters and services. Receives customer payments; balances and records cash and other payment receipts; verifies receipts against payment system data; and prepares deposits. Monitors and updates customer account information; researches account discrepancies or unusual meter readings; calculates payment information for past-due accounts, new installations and security deposits; reports research findings; and/or follows up on service or work order status. Greets customers or receives calls; responds to customer inquiries such as account balance information, payment due dates, minimum payment amounts due or general information inquiries; refers customers to appropriate resources. Copies and scans documents; maintains and organizes files records, reports and accounting transaction documentation. Updates and maintains spreadsheet reports; prepares fiscal transaction reports or other work activity reports. Inspecting, reading, and replacing utility meters in the field; Monitoring meters for damaged or unauthorized connections and tampering; Inspecting equipment and assessing repair needs. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : F.A.M./C.F.O, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : \$16,742.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : One (1)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma. Knowledge of: Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology. Skills in: Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-021

Opening Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2015
Closing Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Trades Assistant (Operator)

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the Deputy Director or his/her designee. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools. Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues. Responds to trouble calls as needed. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site. Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used. Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete. Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports. Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities. Servicing equipment by disassembling, assembling, cleaning and calibrating; Assisting with equipment inspections; Monitoring gauges on engine generators; Reading meters and collecting data; Monitor and maintain pump fuel; Operating incinerators; Operating oil and water separator pump; Servicing and preparing oil filters; Responding to customer calls; Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles; Fabricating materials for required parts. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION(S) : Power Plant, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : \$16,742.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : One (1).

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

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Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Europe must address immigration crisis head-on

The horrifying drowning deaths of hundreds of migrants whose ship sank in the Mediterranean Sea while trying to cross from Africa underscore Europe's illegal immigration crisis.

The death toll last year in the Mediterranean was nearly 3,300, part of a fast-rising tide of illegal immigration to the European Union. Migrants are fleeing conflict, poverty and repression in countries such as Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan. Chaos in Libya has given human smugglers a staging ground. Many in Europe are apathetic or hostile to this wave and the EU has been reluctant or unable to act. That must stop.

EU leaders meet Thursday to discuss the crisis. Some good proposals put forward yesterday include destroying smugglers' boats, and doubling spending on sea patrols and rescue operations. Working to improve conditions in migrants' home countries also would help.

Illegal immigration is a difficult problem, as we have seen in the United States. But continuing what the UN chief of human rights calls Europe's failure of governance and compassion is not an option.

(c)2015 Newsday

Rising teen use of e-cigarettes is a perilous trend

There's one bit of good news in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest survey on teenage smoking—only 9.2 percent of teens in 2014 said they smoke cigarettes. That's a sharp drop from 12.7 percent of the year before, the biggest one-year decline in more than a decade.

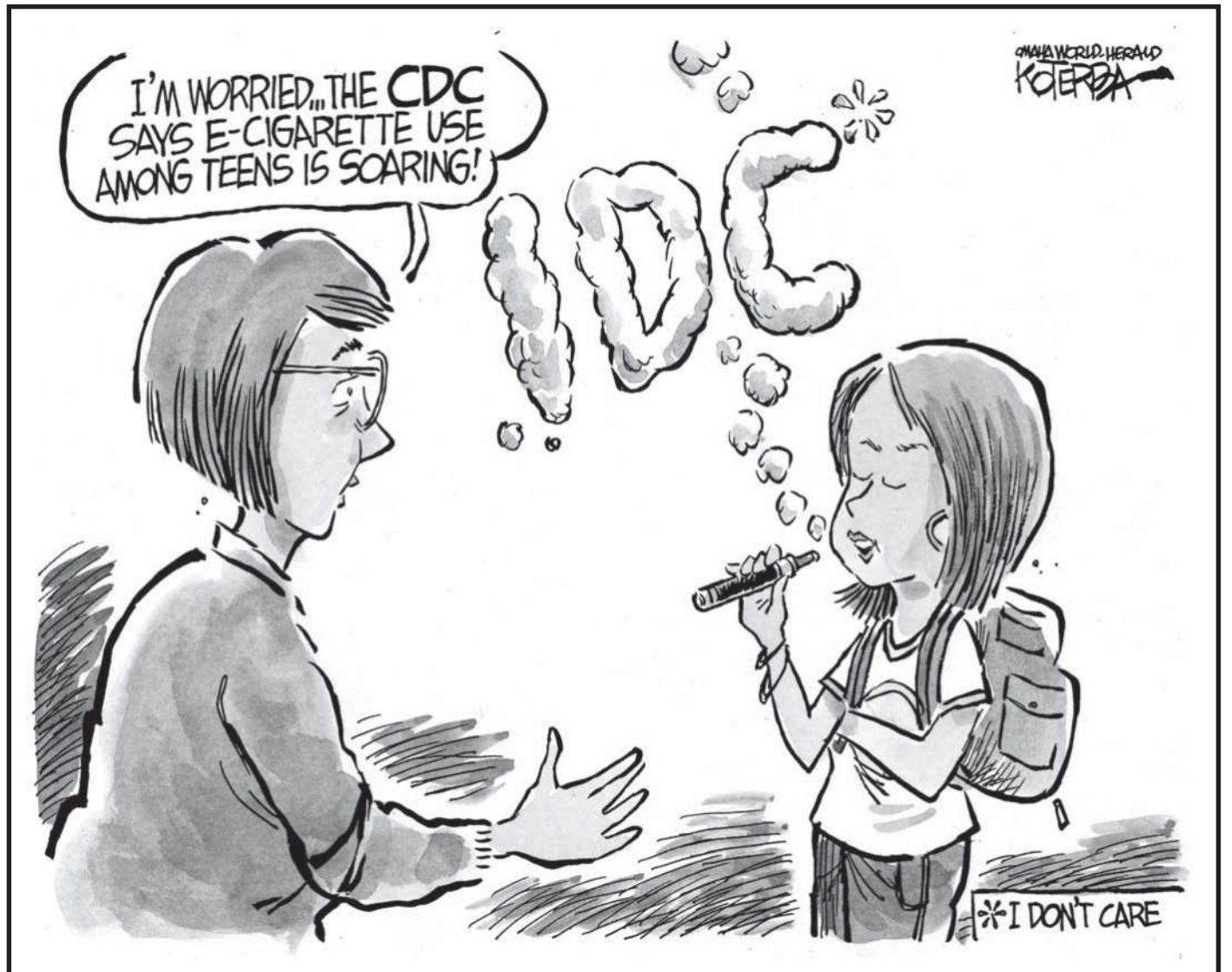
But that positive news was offset by the tripling of teens who said they use electronic cigarettes—a smokeless, tobacco-less alternative that contains nicotine, which is addictive. According to the CDC, 2 million high school students, or 13.4 percent, said they used e-cigarettes last year, compared with only 4.5 percent the year before. In 2014, 450,000 middle school students, or 3.9 percent, used e-cigarettes—a jump from 1.1 percent in 2013.

The CDC considers it a worrisome trend because of the possibility that young people could migrate to tobacco eventually if hooked on nicotine. The illusion that e-cigarettes are "safe" could be creating a new generation of adult smokers.

Although the Food and Drug Administration regulates cigarettes, roll-your-own tobacco and smokeless tobacco, it has no authority over e-cigarettes. It may issue a rule in June, though, giving itself the power. For the sake of healthy Americans, young and old, it won't come a day too soon.

(c)2015 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

See EDITORIAL on Next Page



The day after

A TV movie in 1983, *The Day After*, was about a nuclear exchange between the United States and the then-Union of Socialist Soviet Republics before the latter disintegrated and the former started subtle-to-overt national bragging. What triggered the exchange in the movie was a quarrel between the two Germanys and a Soviet blockade of West Berlin. The film never pinpointed who started the nuclear holocaust but the movie was about the exchange.

The film focused on mid-America's Kansas after a nuke attack and the radiation slowly devastated the survivors, ending in a fade out into black and silence after questions asked on radio went unanswered: "Hello? Is anybody there? Anybody at all?" Deafening silence prevailed.

The Day After Tomorrow was a climate fiction-disaster movie more than 20 years later (2004) when global cooling occurred after a global warming warning went unheeded in a United Nations conference in New Delhi, resulting in the freezing of the northern hemisphere. The U.S. President, in a slap to current sentiments then, asked constituents to escape the Ice Age by crossing the Rio Grande into Mexico, a sight that was incongruous at a time when "wetbacks" were vilified for crossing the border. A solid fence actually went up in Texas to keep the migrants from across the border out.

Meanwhile, search and rescue operations were conducted in a devastated frozen New York City. The human instinct for survival was tested. The movie ends with astronauts looking out of their space station on Earth, the northern hemisphere covered in ice and snow, and a voice blithely saying: "Look at that . . . Have you ever seen the air so clear?"

Disaster movies have always fascinated the modern mind, a common fare in the drive-in especially after the Pollyannaish "they lived happily ever after" of the giddy '20s. But the silver lining of the "air so clear" image decades later might induce us to revisit the notion of "the day after" and create our image of what we want it to be rather than let it just be the result of an unexpected calamity jerked out of passion rather than intentional planning. In fact, the government of the Netherlands was just sued by its own citizens for alleged failure to stem climate change.

Not that we are not capable of destroying ourselves and the planet where we live but that conscious choice as an option is proposed by the Netherland suit where human rights prevail over acquiescence and resignation to an automatic slide into a blind alley of unleashed but unguided fate and destiny.

The figures on Earth's health are verifiable. The population uses more than the planet's holding capacity, our extractive policies of nature's assets from mines that puts value on minerals more than

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



on miners, to indiscriminate expelling of effluents into rivers, lakes, and seas beyond their natural absorptive abilities, on taking out farm hands by increasing insecticide, pesticide, and fertilizer use to ensure full production, all forcing us into stages of metabolic evolution not of our own conscious design.

Then there is the planet, not just a bundle of inert elements and materials for our use and misuse but a throbbing organism in its own right with human beings as integrally interdependent on its wellbeing, its devastation a destruction of umbilical cords tied to the green mantle.

It is time to paint a picture of *the day after* as a heroic human struggle not only on leveling access to resources and the means of production, but on a universal program to distribute benefits in goods and services; that the decision-making processes of the planet are not consigned and limited to the Carnegies, Morgans, Rockefellers, Rothschilds, Harrimans and Schiffs, their allies in central banks and finance institutions that bankroll the operations of energy companies under the protection of the superpower of the planet, abetted by the extractive technologies now spread out throughout the laboring classes in countries around the world.

The conscientized Pinoys in this readership recognize that if they do not belong to the 6,000 landed families in the home country, they do not count among the elite that yields power, presided over by corporations of interrelating global boards. They need to get in the act, regardless.

Yes, *the day after* must proceed from a quiet revolution of human deeds, out of self-interest, knowing that "ego and eco" are complementary poles. There are no authentic people save as there is a sustaining planet that maintains us.

The earthrise photo from the Apollo program (started in '66, ending in '72), and its 17th flight was the last human journey outside the low gravitational orbit of the Earth and the last human landing on the moon, until the Chinese cosmonauts make their scheduled trip shortly. The earthrise image fuels the imagination, not so much to egg us to outer space odysseys, as it is to start "playing" attention to our habitat, Mother Earth, *the day after*!

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Foggun hayu antes

Gi fina` lanchun amiguho, sige asu i feggung hayu `nai muna` loglug takurin kafe. Te`ug gi halom mañglu` ayu na mañge` pau kafe gi taftaf oga`an. Hana` hahassu-yu` ni hagas kusina gi señgsoñg iya Chalan Kanoa.

Ayu na foggung `nai man-eyag hit man-na`lagu sentadan familia. Tai talaña ayu na foggung. Hagu ni kusuneru un` suhun `sino chagua i guafe pot no u dogñgus ninalagumu. `An esta hau paire muna`apan hinegsa`, siempre un` gana sin seremonias galun kusunerun familia. Gi iya hame antes, sinigunduye i sena ni lisayu antes de estudiantu yan deskansu.

Sentadan familia, piot i fina` sena, rumikohe yan muna` dañu todun membro gi un` lamasa. Ala kuenta, sagradu na dinaña ni ma-echa bendision ni nanan guma`. Ginen este na dinaña `nai ha repasa i dos amku` todun finapos kada unu guihe na ha`ane.

I pisun finapos kada patgon gaige gi finana`guen dos saina. Malu-log hau bittun respetu, yine`ase`, inasi`i`, responsabilidad yan inadahan echu tautau. Este siha na finana` gue pumega tunas yan fitme na sensia giya hita. Pas i komunida diariamente.

Pot megai pumadese hinanau i administrasion Navy `nai tumaya` cho`chu` na todus bimira siha tatte gi gualu` yan peskan tasi. Megai asoda`hu entalu` halom tanu` yan kanton unai. Parehu inaligau mantension familia. Este na ekspirensia mina` in` komprende haf` linala` popble.

I didog na chinatsaga-ta pa`gu guiya este i tumunog biradan siglu` `nai enteru elmundu pumadedese poduñg ekonomia. Siempre u na`lu tatte lau mampos muñeru na biahe. Lau namagof minesñgon natibu gi halom todun mattiru. Dinaña` familia sumustetene hit gi todun chinatsaga-ta esta pa`gu.

Maseha makat finapos todun gi feggung hayu guiya ayu na satgen kusina i fitme na pisun tutuhon-ta. Lokue`, gi halom todun mattirun tinilaika ti mañcha hit ginen fitme na kinimite para ta sustene kuttur-

an yan tradision natibu. Gaige este na kinimite gi espiritun tautau-ta siha. Sumen namagof na sentimientu.

Sensian Kilisyanu

Kontentuyu` sa` huli`e` na esta pa`gu gagaige ha` ayu na sensian kilisyanu gi mañan tautau-ta siha. Memetgot ha` trabiha sensian ina`ayuda gi ayu na tautau-ta i numesessita ayudu.

Para mattirun i tiempu, man-geftau tautau-ta man-manlagnos fina` ayudu para i mañeluta giya Yap yan Chuuk ni man-hinigua` dañosu na pagyu guine gi alacha.

Haf` na tirun Pagyun Jean gi 1968 `nai ha prensa enteru Saipan. Homhum i tanu`, todun man-hinalulula pumega tatte maseha temporariu na fina liheñg familia. Mauleg ayuduña i militat guihe na ira deste temporariu na yenereta` esta kusina gi todun eskuela `nai mana` guaha amotsan oga`an yan talo`ane kontodu sena.

Ayu na pagyu `nai huli`e` klaru fuetsan mañglu`. Todun buttu ni hasoda` mona ha chalapon naneñg kulan `an yute` papet gi halom mañglu`. Adumididi` sige ta ta`lun umaregla ha`anita estake manachu hit kabales otdinariamente.

Huli`e` todun este siha na tanu` kumu empleau Congress of Micronesia. Hasan man-dinanche iran pagyu ayu buente na ti mana` presisu fanliheñf padet. Megai lokue` man-tagpapa` na isla ya ensegi-das de mattiempu man-tinampe tinanom niha sune ni hanom tasi. Ta disesha na felis todun animon niha umaregla tatte destrosiun i pagyu.

Sensian Hinimide

Muñga man-hinalañg gi halom este siha na chinatsaga. Dalai ya ti u doku` maseha dikiki` na na`magof na mensahe para i linahyan. Siempre u fattu tatte!

Seguruyu` na man-e`ensinahayu ma-estudiaye hafa masusede, masusede yan para umasusede gi satbasion sige ha` mafondu na

now that election season is over and cooler heads prevail, the benefits of a polling system will be more appealing and better received given what we are facing with legalization and other issues. I have always believed that issues should stand on their own merits and if you take that stance you should embrace a polling system as only politicians who don't want to be held accountable would be against the people having a voice with a voter polling system.

Hearings are an open-ended educational experience and they will often take a life of their own as information is disclosed, which we witnessed as the issue went from medical use only to full legalization because of the overwhelming support and the facts that supported this shift, even though there was an attempt to prevent it from happening. In other words, hearings are for exposing something or someone, as the Senate hearings exposed some facts that proved full legalization is a better option than medical only. It is just the reality of the truth and merits prevailing as they should. Hearings are just not suited for polling as they don't represent a large enough sampling of society and many people will not participate out of fear. I'm sure there are some people still against marijuana for whatever reason but their voices have been silent in part because of the public exposure but every voice can be heard in total privacy with a polling system.

There have been many issues we could have solved and moved on

In Texas, forensic flaws were found in 21 state and federal cases. That number includes five defendants now on death row and five who have been executed.

The feds have advised defendants and prosecutors in all the tainted cases to consider whether grounds for appeals exist. Keep in mind that the hair testimony was not necessarily the only evidence in every case.

The so-called science behind hair forensics went under the microscope after the National Academy of Sciences labeled the evidence unreliable in a searing 2009 report.

The FBI review, in partnership with the New York-based National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Innocence Project, is looking at 2,500 cases involving hair matches nationwide. The report released over the weekend is just the first of many still to come.

The government's admissions, which could force retrials in hundreds of cases, are most concerning in instances in which the bad science was used in death-penalty cases.

The erroneous evidence uncovered in this review is a painful reminder of the aftermath of the ghastly local murder of 7-year-old Ashley Estell, abducted in 1993 from a Plano, Texas, park. Authorities thought they had the right suspect, but after Michael Blair spent 14 years on death row, the case against him came apart.

The weak link? Supposed expert testimony based on hair-fiber analysis produced damning trial evidence, but the findings were later discredited by newly developed DNA technology.

Whether you favor capital punishment or oppose the death penalty, you want to get it right. It's important to be sure that the actual perpetrator is not on the loose.

Junk science has no place in the criminal justice system.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



galaide` monedan familia.

Pa`gu `an mafondu pues kahlañg hau gi dodole` paluma puede pine`lu hau gi fina` hogsu`. Hana`e` hit tiempu umaberigua haf` na hita mismu fumondu galaide`ta.

Siempre u suha este i mattirun siglu ya u tutuhon bumirague` tatte gi otdinariu na tiempo ha`anita. Ti hita ha` man-mamadese na enteru elmundu. Pinasensia yan ginagau ayudu gi Nanalibreta solu konsueluta mientras tantos.

Diberas kontodu hagas tinanom dagu in` guadog guine gi alacha. Esta gamla` lau in` usune kumatdu yan to`lañg guaka. Gi tiempun eskases todun bali dihemunos ke gamla` pat dage`.

■ ■ ■

Umasoda`yu` yan un` prohimu ni dumeklara na kabilosugue`, tomtum, malate yan menhalom (gi finu` Eñglis "intellectual"). Hu fatkiluye pot finu` kabron yan banida. Ayu ha` guinahaña i settifikun Marianas High School yan menos de mediu manehante na eskalera gi ofisioña.

Lau ha popo`lu na menhalom yan afamaugue` gi enteru Marianas. Pot dios ma`ase` nu hagu ya cha`mu chalelegua` mas ke esta un` na`yanyu`. Finu` man-amku` nañga mohon ya ula`la` i matai kairu` ya guiya un` tinina. Hinimide! Si Iku.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A tool for politicians and voters to fix the CNMI

If there is one thing we have learned as humans, it is the fact that we need tools to maximize our physical and nonphysical capabilities. It has been over five years since I first started talking about getting the CNMI a new tool—a polling system. Unlike the rest of America where every state has some kind of polling system, we are still conducting our politics using what I call the “fly-by-coconut-wire politics” to gauge the people. The CNMI is still in its formative years, trying to build and develop a robust economy that will provide a high quality of life for citizens but we are struggling because our tool is as old-fashioned as the machete. We are trying to build a house with only a machete when we need power tools. You can build a house with a machete but we all know the house will not be a modern house. The marijuana issue reminded me of the polling system and hopefully

EDITORIAL

From Page 11

Bad science and bogus results in hair forensics undermine justice

The number of near absolutes in a new nationwide review of shabby forensics used to secure convictions is devastating:

For more than two decades prior to 2000, nearly every examiner in an elite FBI forensic unit presented flawed evidence in almost every trial in which hair-comparison testimony was provided.

We're talking bad science and bogus results—all of it now officially acknowledged by the Justice Department.

It's unfathomable that hair examiners operated until 2000 without written standards about what constituted scientific validity. They simply backed up their claims by citing incomplete or inaccurate statistics to prove a point.

Of 28 examiners with the FBI Laboratory's microscopic hair comparison unit, 26 overstated matches in favor of the prosecution in more than 95 percent of the 268 trials reviewed so far.

Translate that into human lives, and you'll find 32 defendants sentenced to death. Of those, 14 already have been executed or died while serving time.

but instead many issues have lingered as long as a decade or more. The land alienation issue which the CNMI pledged in the Covenant to address in 2011 is still lingering over the CNMI, the casino issue that took two votes and over a decade, the alien worker issue is another example when Kilili just decided on his own what to do without a town hall meeting or any polling of the people, and the poker machines in villages issue now that people are being killed has never been put to the people so it is still lingering. Heck, the House of Representatives just passed a bill to consider changing our political status without a single survey or polling of the people so how do they know what the majority want? They needed to poll all the local people before passing a law of this magnitude. I'm not taking sides but do they know the CNMI can't change its political status without America's approval? Read the Covenant! We could end up angering Congress when we should be nurturing our relationship—another lesson already taught to us by Gov. Froilon who made the feds angry at us with similar talk and spending millions on lobbyists to fight the feds!

But the marijuana bill is clear proof we need a polling system as it is clear to me now the hearings were originally meant to poll the people to say yes or no on medical marijuana use only. Voters could have been asked simple questions about marijuana use and if they preferred full legalization in a poll. But it took a Senate hearings just to open the door on marijuana use and we are still guessing as to what the majority wants. I'm also trying to educate on the need for a moratorium because the Senate hearings cannot educate and poll everyone on marijuana use, the newspapers can't educate and poll everyone either because they only print around 3,000 copies a day when we have 18,000 voters. A moratorium period and/or a voter polling system could educate every voter and we could get real empirical and certified results on what the majority of people want instead of relying on the coconut wire results and building our CNMI with a machete.

To put it simply, if every voter were able to go online using their voter PIN number and vote on questions, we could get a lot of “certified questions answered and a lot more work done” as to what the majority wants in a very short time. A polling system is a scientific tool that can be used by our politicians and voters of the CNMI to help us have a more responsive and accountable government for the people. The Open Government Act places a check on our government and leaders to show us what they are doing but a polling system places a *check mate* on our government and leaders as they *must* do what the majority dictates in the polling results or face the potential of being fired—it is really that simple. A voter polling system could be run possibly by the Board of Elections. Technology can save us a lot of time and headaches, make our government more efficient, and make our economy and life a lot better. So leaders, please purchase this relatively inexpensive modern software tool for the CNMI to be installed at the Board of Elections for our Legislature to submit questions to the people they work for. A voter polling system is a simple answer to many complex questions. It is worth every penny of the investment to modernize the politics of the CNMI!

Ambrose M Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

FIJI and Friends Live on Saipan

PHOTOS BY JAYSON CAMACHO



From left to right: Kiwini Vaitai, Nakii Ninja, Siaso Taulani Jr, and George "FIJI" Veikoso smile at a news briefing last Friday.



Kolohe Kai band members and Steven Brownstein listen to sponsors, media, and fans during a news briefing last Friday.



Kiwini Vaitai performs during the FIJI Live on Saipan concert last Saturday.



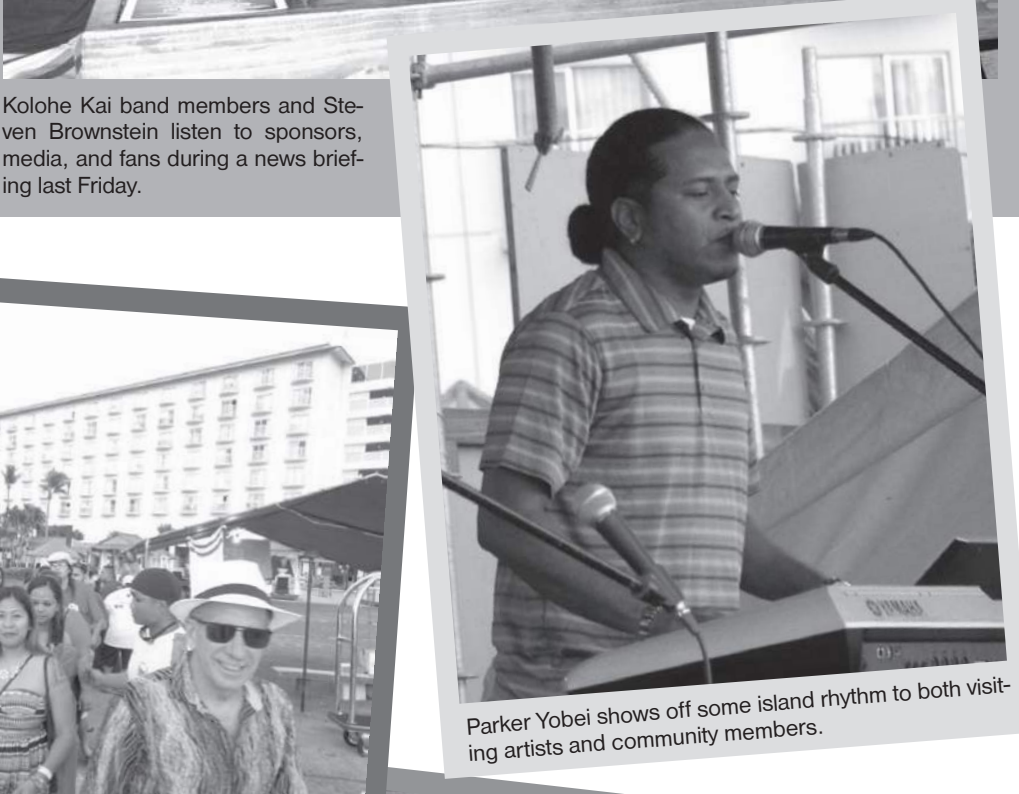
Thousands of fans enter the concert area. Steve Brownstein, the man who made the concert possible, far right, smiles for the camera as he enters.



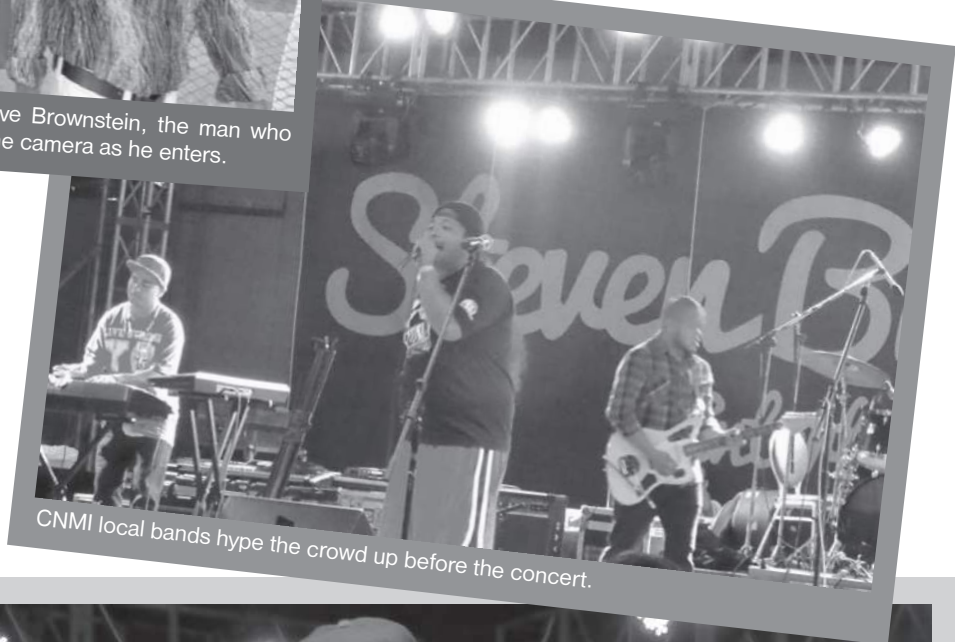
FIJI's performance makes the fans go wild in front of the stage.



Kolohe Kai's lead singer and song-writer Roman De Peralta sings one of the songs from their new album "Paradise."



Parker Yobei shows off some island rhythm to both visiting artists and community members.



CNMI local bands hype the crowd up before the concert.



DJ Hapa Boy aka Taylor Tadani, right, livens the crowd up with his sick DJ beats during the FIJI Live on Saipan concert last Saturday.



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Business

Why McDonald's is still a powerhouse, despite troubles



AP

This Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015, file photo, shows a McDonald's fast food restaurant sign in Chicago. McDonald's has been hurt by diners who want something different.

NEW YORK (AP)—McDonald's sales have been sputtering for more than two years and the company seems trapped in a cycle of bad headlines that likely won't end soon.

Its quarterly earnings results on Wednesday aren't expected to be pretty either, and there's a chance its dominance will continue to wane as newer players keep coming onto the scene.

But don't write the obituary just yet. McDonald's has many strengths that the rivals biting at its heels can only envy, including Ronald McDonald's worldwide recognition. The Golden Arches will need to put them to good use to remain the world's largest restaurant chain.

Here are six reasons why McDonald's is nowhere close to death's door for now.

MASSIVE REACH

McDonald's has more than 14,300 locations in the U.S. and that ubiquity continues to make it a default option for many. Burrito chain Chipotle is in growth mode but still only a fraction of that size, with around 1,800 locations. (Shake Shack, whose stock offering earlier this year garnered lots of attention, has fewer than 40.)

Because of its recent struggles, McDonald's plans to slow its growth to its lowest level in five years. But "slow" is relative: It still plans to add 600 to 700 restaurants around the world this year, on top of the more than 36,200 it already has.

Chipotle said it plans to open up to 205 new stores this year, mostly in the U.S.

MARKETING POWER

McDonald's has enormous marketing muscle, in large part because its franchisees are required to contribute at least 4 percent of their sales to advertising.

Based on the \$31.1 billion in sales U.S. franchisees saw last year, that would translate to at least \$1.24 billion in advertising money.

That huge bucket of money is split in two ways. Some goes to national advertising and focuses on burnishing the brand. The rest goes to regional advertising and focuses more on promotions to drive customers to stores.

Advertising doesn't have to be expensive to be effective, of course. But McDonald's deep pockets give it a clear advantage.

PRINTING MONEY

The recent sales decline in the U.S. is squeezing franchisees, who still have to pay for fixed costs like labor and electricity.

But McDonald's restaurants continue to generate a lot more cash than their peers. In 2014, the average McDonald's restaurant raked in \$2.5 million in sales, according to industry tracker Technomic. Wendy's restaurants pulled in an average of \$1.6 million, while Burger King pulled in \$1.2 million.

A big reason for the difference: the popularity of McDonald's breakfast.

Average annual sales for Shake Shack are higher at \$4.6 million, Technomic said. That's in part because Shake Shack is concentrated in New York City, where volumes tend to be higher. The average Chipotle generates roughly the same sales volume as McDonald's even without breakfast, in part because of its fast-moving line and higher prices.

UNLOCKING BREAKFAST

Fans of McDonald's breakfast have long called on the chain to offer it past 10:30 a.m. McDonald's is finally giving the idea a serious try with a test of an all-day breakfast menu in San Diego.

It's just one way McDonald's might bring more customers into its stores and may signal the company's willingness to take bigger risks.

Big companies tend to be cautious about change, and McDonald's in particular is known for its methodical decision-making. But executives may pick up the pace to avoid becoming outdated.

NEW LEADERSHIP

McDonald's CEO Steve Easterbrook stepped into his role just last month and said he wants to make McDonald's a "modern, progressive burger company." In a meet-and-greet with analysts, he also referred to himself as an "internal activist," according to Sara Senatore, a Bernstein analyst.

Another new executive is Mike Andres, who became president of the U.S. division in October. He started as a manager for his family-owned McDonald's, and has served in a variety of leadership roles at the company.

(Side note: Andres' father was a pilot for Ray Kroc, who built McDonald's into a fast-food giant.)

MCDONALD'S HAS BEEN HERE BEFORE

The troubles McDonald's is facing are partly the result of a shifting industry, with many smaller players posing a challenge to the big guys. If that trend keeps up, McDonald's may not be able to save itself.

At the same time, it's easy to forget that McDonald's has had rough patches before—and pulled out of them.

Consider the expanded menu and focus on value that former CEO Jim Skinner used to turn around business. It isn't an ancient example; Skinner's tenure was from 2004 to 2012, the last few years of which were some of McDonald's strongest.

Nation

Justice Dept. opens Baltimore police probe; 1K protest

BALTIMORE (AP)—The Justice Department said Tuesday it has opened a civil rights investigation into the death of Freddie Gray, a black man who suffered a fatal spinal-cord injury under mysterious circumstances after he was handcuffed and put in the back of a police van.

After the probe was announced, at least 1,000 people gathered at a previously planned rally at the site of Gray's arrest. Protesters marched to a police station a couple of blocks away, chanting and holding signs that read "Black Lives Matter" and "No Justice, No Peace"—slogans that have come to embody what demonstrators believe is widespread mistreatment of blacks by police.

Pricilla Jackson carried a sign reading, "Convict Freddie's killers," that listed the names of the six officers suspended with pay while local authorities and the U.S. Justice

Department investigate the death. Jackson, who is black, said she wants Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to know that she and others have been brutalized by police.

"They're hurting us when they throw us to the ground and kick us and punch us," said Jackson, 53.

At least one activist was detained when he jumped past police barriers.

Gray's mother, Gloria Darden, was overcome with grief and carried away at one point by several men, writhing and sobbing uncontrollably, her face obscured by a hood and dark glasses. The crowd parted to let her through. Another female family member collapsed in tears and was also helped away.

As the sun fell, some protesters lit candles and the demonstration peacefully dispersed. More protests were planned for later in the week.

Gray, 25, was taken into

custody April 12 after police "made eye contact" with him and another man in an area known for drug activity, police said. Gray was handcuffed and put in a transport van. At some point during his roughly 30-minute ride, the van was stopped and Gray's legs were shackled when an officer felt he was becoming "irate," police said.

Police Commissioner Anthony Batts said that Gray asked for an inhaler, and then several times asked for medical care. He was eventually rushed to a hospital.

Gray died Sunday—a week after his arrest—of what police described as "a significant spinal injury."

Exactly how he was injured and what happened in the van is not known.

Justice Department spokeswoman Dena Iverson said investigators are "gathering information to determine whether any prosecutable civil rights violation occurred."

DEA chief to retire amid pressure over agents' sex scandal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The embattled head of the Drug Enforcement Administration said Tuesday that she plans to retire after three decades with the agency, an announcement that came amid mounting pressure for her resignation from members of Congress who questioned her handling of misconduct allegations against agents.

Michele Leonhart, a career drug agent who has led the agency since 2007 and was the second woman to hold the job, had been widely criticized for her response to a scathing government watchdog report detailing allegations that agents attended sex parties with prostitutes in a foreign country.

After Leonhart appeared last week before the House Oversight Committee to respond to an inspector general's al-

legations that the agents had received lenient punishments, most lawmakers on the panel announced that they had lost confidence in her. She also was criticized as being "woefully unable to change" the agency's culture.

The no-confidence statement was signed by 13 House Democrats and nine Republicans, including its chairman, Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, and the committee's top Democrat, Elijah Cummings of Maryland. Chaffetz went a step further, calling for Leonhart to resign or be fired. On Tuesday, the two lawmakers said they welcomed Leonhart's departure, calling it appropriate and an opportunity for new leadership.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest reiterated earlier Tuesday that the Obama

administration had "concerns about the material that was presented in the (inspector general) report that raised legitimate and serious questions about the conduct of some DEA officers." He said Obama "maintains a very high standard for anybody who serves in his administration, particularly when it comes to law enforcement officials."

Leonhart will leave the agency in mid-May, Attorney General Eric Holder said in announcing her retirement.

"Michele has led this distinguished agency with honor, and I have been proud to call her my partner in the work of safeguarding our national security and protecting our citizens from crime, exploitation and abuse," Holder said, crediting her with helping dismantle violent drug trafficking organizations.



ACROSS THE NATION

Volunteer deputy heading to Bahamas amid manslaughter charge

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—A volunteer sheriff's deputy plans to vacation in the Bahamas while facing a second-degree manslaughter charge in Oklahoma, his attorneys told a judge Tuesday, drawing immediate criticism from the family of the man he killed. Robert Bates pleaded not guilty during the hearing in Tulsa district court. The 73-year-old former insurance executive has said he confused his handgun for a stun gun when he shot Eric Harris after the suspect ran during a sting investigation involving gun sales. Bates' law-

yers told the judge that Bates, a reserve deputy with the Tulsa County sheriff's office, and his family planned to take their previously planned vacation ahead of his next court date in July. "It's really not an issue," Corbin Brewster, one of Bates' attorneys, said in an interview after the hearing.

Anger at acquittal of Chicago policeman in shooting of woman

CHICAGO (AP)—A judge's surprise acquittal of an off-duty Chicago police officer in the shooting death of an unarmed woman called into question prosecutors' decision not to charge the man with murder, and set off protests for a sec-

ond day Tuesday. That the officer shot Rekia Boyd, 22, was never in dispute. But the judge said he was bound to find detective Dante Servin not guilty of involuntary manslaughter—because manslaughter requires evidence of "recklessness," while the judge described the act of shooting as "intentional." "It is intentional and the crime, if any there be, is first-degree murder," Judge Dennis Porter said in his seven-page ruling Monday. Several dozen demonstrators gathered in downtown Chicago's Daley Plaza on Tuesday, some holding signs with a picture of Boyd, to voice distain for the decision by Porter and for Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez.

Asia

Japanese lawmakers visit war shrine

TOKYO (AP)—More than 100 Japanese lawmakers paid respects Wednesday at a Tokyo shrine that honors Japan's war dead, including World War II leaders, but Cabinet ministers and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe did not participate in the spring ritual.

Abe sent religious offerings Tuesday rather than visiting Yasukuni Shrine, a move less likely to draw controversy on his current Southeast Asian trip and an upcoming U.S. visit.

Organizers gave an initial count of 106 lawmakers visiting the shrine. They said no cabinet ministers had visited as of Wednesday morning.

Previous visits by Japanese leaders to pray at Yasukuni Shrine have drawn sharp rebukes from China and South Korea. Abe's last visit to Yasukuni, in December 2013, was also criticized by Washington.

But those who worship at the shrine insist they are fulfilling an obligation to the victims of war.

"The spirits of the war dead—they died for their coun-

try, with the thought of their country in mind. I believe they are praying for their country to be in peace," Hidehisa Otsuji, who heads a group of lawmakers campaigning for officially sanctioned visits to the shrine, said in downtown Tokyo.

Abe sent "masakaki" offerings, with a wooden plate showing his name and title. He sent similar offerings last spring and fall at the shrine, which honors war criminals including wartime leader Hideki Tojo among the 2.5 million war dead.

Abe's move comes at a sensitive time as he has expressed hopes of meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping during an Asia-African conference this week in Indonesia, which will draw more than 100 leaders. No meeting between the two has been set.

"If there is an opportunity to hold talks in a natural way, I'm open," Abe told reporters before heading to Indonesia. "I hope to further improve our relations."

As victims of Japan's wartime aggression, neighboring

countries see the shrine as a symbol of Japanese militarism. They also see visits by Japanese political leaders as a sign of Japan's lack of remorse over its atrocities.

The shrine's spring festival will end just as Abe returns Thursday evening. Though the shrine is open to visits any time of year, politicians customarily visit during the spring and fall festivals or on the Aug. 15 anniversary of Japan's surrender ending World War II.

Soon after he returns Abe leaves on an eight-day U.S. tour. He will talk with President Barack Obama and speak to a joint meeting of Congress, where he is expected to touch on Japan's wartime history as part of Japan-U.S. relations since the war. The visit is expected to showcase Abe's commitment to stronger ties with Washington, especially in national security.

Anything Abe says this year on history will be closely watched because it marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

S. Korea approves plan to salvage sunken ferry

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Wednesday formally approved plans to salvage a ferry that sank last year in one of the country's deadliest disasters in decades that killed more than 300 people.

Raising the ferry is one of demands made by bereaved families, who hope that might help reveal details about the cause of the sinking and find bodies of the nine passengers still missing. Some conservative critics have opposed raising the Sewol, a civilian ship, with taxpayers' money and are skeptical that salvaging it will provide new revelations and find the missing.

The bodies of 295 people have been recovered. Most of the victims were high schools students who were on a trip to a southern resort island.

Public Safety and Security Minister Park In-yong told a televised news conference that the government endorsed a request by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries to hoist the ship from the seafloor off the country's southwest coast.

The endorsement was widely expected as President Park Geun-hye last week promised to try to salvage the ship and retrieve the nine missing people during a ceremony marking the

first anniversary of the disaster.

Park's government had faced criticism from relatives of the victims and their supporters, who say officials were reluctant to start work to lift the ship due to expected high costs. In the first several months after the sinking, relatives had opposed raising the ship because they worried that would damage the bodies of those believed trapped inside the submerged ship or allow them to be swept away.

Salvaging the ship is estimated to cost between \$91 and \$137 million and take as long as 18 months, according to the oceans ministry.

ASIAN BRIEFS

16 dead, 5 trapped in flooded northern China coal mine

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese officials raised the death toll of a mine flood in northern China to 16, with five still trapped, state media reported late Tuesday. More than 600 rescue workers were pumping water and drilling holes from the surface in hopes of reaching those still inside the Jiangjiawan mine near the city of Datong, the reports said. The official Xinhua News Agency said 6,100 cubic meters (about 1.6 million gallons) of water had already been pumped out as of Tuesday afternoon. A total of 247 miners were underground when water rushed into the shaft Sunday evening. Of those, 223 people made it safely to the surface. Such accidents are usually

caused by breaches of abandoned shafts where water has collected over time.

12 Indian pilgrims killed in Nepal bus accident

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A bus plunged off a mountain highway near the Nepalese capital Wednesday, killing at least 12 Indian pilgrims and injuring 37 more, police said. The bus veered off the Prithvi highway at a point about 16 kilometers (10 miles) west of Kathmandu, police officer Tejendra said. He said the bus fell about 300 meters (1,000 feet) from the highway before it landed in a river at the bottom of the hill. The injured have been taken to different hospitals in Kathmandu. Seven men and five women were killed, but they

have not been identified.

Drone found on roof of Japan Prime Minister's Office

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese authorities are investigating after a small drone landed on the roof of the Prime Minister's Office. No injuries or damage have been reported from Wednesday's incident, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was away on a visit to Indonesia to attend the Asia-African conference. Police said Wednesday it was not immediately known who was responsible. They are investigating the possibility it had crashed during a flight. Public television NHK footages showed dozens of police and officials around the drone, which was covered by a blue tarp.

World

Mistake turns rescue into tragedy

CATANIA, Sicily (AP)—Rescue seemed so close at hand.

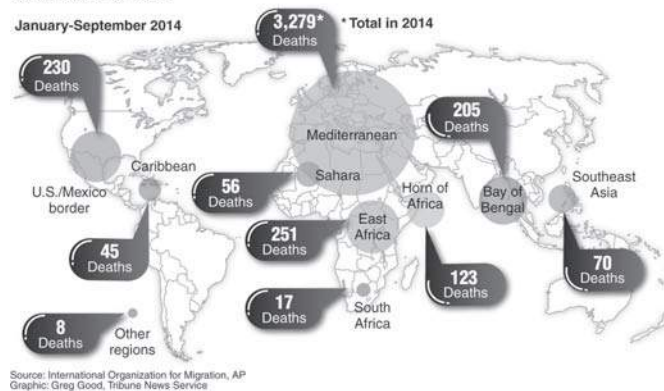
A ship with experience plucking migrants from unseaworthy smuggler's boats had arrived soon after the distress call went out. But then the fishing trawler's navigator made a maneuver that would seal the fate of the 850 people crammed inside: Instead of easing up alongside the merchant ship, he rammed it.

Relief gave way to panic. Terrified migrants rushed to one side, the trawler seized and capsized. What might have been another rescue in a period of unprecedented migrant crossings instead turned into a horrifying statistic: The deadliest shipwreck ever in the Mediterranean Sea.

The accounts of survivors who arrived early Tuesday in this Sicilian port 48 hours after the disaster offered new details of the tragedy. The traumatized witnesses corroborated a death toll of at least 800, making the capsizing "the deadliest incident in the Mediterranean that we have ever recorded," the

Migrant deaths around the world

With the recent sinking of a migrant boat killing at least 800 in the Mediterranean this week, the number of migrant deaths in the Mediterranean is already at 1,776 for 2015. Here is a look at last year's migrant deaths around the world.



U.N. refugee agency said.

Just 28 migrants, all men and boys in their teens, survived. And despite the enormous toll, only 24 bodies were recovered—frequently the case when ships sink on the high seas, especially when most passengers are locked below deck, as was the case Saturday night.

Aid agencies were quick to issue another warning: At the current pace, 2015 is set to be the deadliest year on record for migrants making the peril-

ous crossing as they flee war, repression and poverty in the Middle East and Africa. In April alone, 1,300 have died.

The International Organization for Migration said the toll for the year could top 30,000—nearly 10 times the 2014 total of 3,279, itself a record.

"We just want to make sure people understand how much more ... rapid these deaths have been coming this year," said Joel Millman, the IOM spokesman.

Court sentences ousted Egypt president to 20 years in prison

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's ousted Islamist president, Mohamed Morsi, was convicted of using force against protesters and sentenced to 20 years in prison on Tuesday, the first verdict against him since he was removed by the military nearly two years ago.

The case was the latest in a series of mass trials on a range of charges against Morsi and other members of his Muslim Brotherhood, which Egypt's government has vowed to crush, branding it a terrorist organization. Amnesty International denounced Morsi's trial as a "sham"—as rights groups have called many of the trials over the past two years.

The Brotherhood went from

decades as an underground organization to vault to power after Egypt's 2011 popular uprising toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak. The Brotherhood was the biggest winner in subsequent parliament elections, and Morsi—running as its candidate—became Egypt's first freely elected president in 2012.

But a year later, millions protested against Morsi's divisive rule, and then-army chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi led the military's July 2013 removal of Morsi. Since then, a fierce crackdown has shattered the Brotherhood, killing hundreds of its supporters protesting for Morsi's return and arresting thousands more.

The verdict also sparked no immediate street protests, reflecting the crackdown's impact on any show of dissent—either by Islamists or other activists.

Most of the Brotherhood's top leadership already have received heavy prison sentences in other trials, as well as hundreds of death sentences laid down for senior figures and lower level supporters over acts of violence carried out during protests against Morsi's ouster. The Brotherhood's top leader, Mohammed Badie, has received several death sentences in multiple cases—though they are subject to appeal. He appeared in court recently in the red jumpsuit worn by Egyptian prisoners on death row.

Pope accepts resignation of bishop who didn't report abuse

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Pope Francis accepted the resignation Tuesday of a U.S. bishop who was convicted of failing to report a suspected child abuser, answering calls by victims to take action against bishops who cover up for pedophile priests.

Bishop Robert Finn, who led the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph in Missouri for nearly 10 years, resigned under canon law that allows bishops to resign early for illness or some "grave" reason that makes them unfit for office. But his resignation did not provide a specific reason.

Finn, 62, is 13 years shy of the normal retirement age of 75.

In 2012, Finn was found guilty of one misdemeanor

count of failure to report suspected abuse and was sentenced to two years of probation, making him the highest-ranking church official in the U.S. to be convicted of not taking action in response to abuse allegations.

Prosecutors say the diocese did not notify police until six months after concerns were raised in 2011 about the Rev. Shawn Ratigan, whose computers were found to contain hundreds of lewd photos of young girls.

Since the convictions, Finn has faced pressure to resign, including local and national petition drives asking the pope to remove him from the diocese.

The removal was praised

by Marie Collins, a prominent member of Francis' own sex abuse advisory board who had called for Finn to go and demanded that the Vatican hold bishops accountable when they fail to protect children.

"Things are moving slowly, as I have said many times, but they are moving in the right direction!" Collins tweeted.

Francis appointed Archbishop Joseph Naumann, head of the Kansas City, Kansas, diocese, to lead the Missouri diocese until Finn's successor is named. In a letter to the diocese, Naumann said he prayed "that the coming weeks and months will be a time of grace and healing." Naumann will retain his duties in Kansas.

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—In its first report on trafficking around the world, the U.S. criticized Thailand as a hub for labor abuse. Yet 14 years later, seafood caught by slaves on Thai boats is still slipping into the supply chains of major American stores and supermarkets.

The U.S. has not enforced a law banning the import of goods made with forced labor since 2000 because of significant loopholes, The Associated Press has found. It has also spared Thailand from sanctions slapped on other countries with weak records in human trafficking because of a complex political relationship that includes cooperation against terrorism.

The question of how to deal with Thailand and labor abuse will come up at a congressional hearing Wednesday, in light of an AP investigation that found hundreds of men beaten, starved, forced to work with little or no pay and even held in a cage on the remote Indonesian island village of Benjina. The captains on most of the boats based on the island are Thai. While officials at federal agencies would not directly answer why the law and sanctions are not applied, they pointed out that the U.S. State Department last year blacklisted Thailand as among the worst offenders in its report on trafficking in people worldwide.

Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, said the plight of about 4,000 forced laborers in Thailand's seafood industry can no longer go unheeded.

"There have been problems with systematic and pervasive human trafficking in Thailand's fishing fleets for more than a decade, but Washington has evidently considered it too hard to find out exactly what was happening and is not taking action to stop it," he said. "No one can claim ignorance anymore. This is a test case for Washington as much as Bangkok."

Hlaing Min, a 32-year-old migrant fisherman from Myanmar who worked around the clock for more than two years before he ran away, also begged the U.S. for help.

"Basically, we are slaves—and slavery is the only word that I can find—but our condition is worse than slavery," he said. "On behalf of all the fishermen here, I request to the congressmen that the U.S. stop buying all fish from Thailand. ... This fish, we caught it with our blood and sweat, but we don't get a single benefit from it."

The AP investigation tracked fish caught by slaves to the supply chains of large food sellers such as Wal-Mart, Sysco and Kroger, as



In this Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014 photo, workers in Benjina, Indonesia, load fish onto a cargo ship bound for Thailand. Seafood caught by slaves mixes in with other fish at a number of sites in Thailand, including processing plants. U.S. Customs records show that several of those Thai factories ship to the United States.

US lets in Thai fish caught by slaves despite law

By MARTHA MENDOZA
Associated Press National Writer

well as popular brands of canned pet food such as Fancy Feast, Meow Mix and Iams. The companies all said they strongly condemn labor abuse and are taking steps to prevent it. While some human rights advocates say boycotts are effective, many U.S. seafood companies say cutting off all imports from an entire country means they no longer have any power to bring about change.

During a recent visit to Jakarta, State Department Undersecretary Catherine A. Novelli was asked what the U.S. would now do.

"I'm sure that your public would be concerned that the fish that they ate came from a slave," said an Indonesian reporter.

Novelli's response was quick. "In the United States we actually have a law that it is illegal to import any product that is made with forced labor or slave labor, and that includes fish," she said. "To the extent that we can trace ... where the fish are coming from, we won't allow fish to come into the United States that has been produced with forced labor or slavery."

However, the Tariff Act of 1930, which gives Customs and Border Protection the authority to seize shipments where forced

labor is suspected and block further imports, has been used only 39 times in 85 years. In 11 cases, the orders detaining shipments were later revoked.

The most recent case dates back to 2000, when Customs stopped clothing from Mongolian firm Dong Fang Guo Ji based on evidence that factory managers forced employees, including children, to work 14-hour days for low wages. The order was revoked in 2001, after further review found labor abuse was no longer a problem at the company.

Detention orders that remain in place can have mixed results.

In 1999, Customs blocked hand-rolled unfiltered cigarettes from the Mangalore Ganesh Beedie Works in India, suspecting child labor. However, the AP found that Mangalore Ganesh has sent 11 large shipments of the cigarettes to Beedies LLC of Kissimmee, Florida, over the past four years through the ports of New York, Miami and Savannah, Georgia. Beedies LLC said the cigarettes go straight from the U.S. ports to a bonded warehouse, and are then exported outside the country.

To start an investigation, Customs needs to receive a petition from anyone—a busi-

ness, an agency, even a non-citizen—showing "reasonably but not conclusively" that imports were made at least in part with forced labor. But spokesman Michael Friel said that in the last four years, Customs has received "only a handful of petitions," and none has pointed to seafood from Thailand. The most recent petition was filed two years ago by a non-profit against cotton in Uzbekistan.

"These cases often involve numerous allegations that require extensive agency investigation and fact-finding," he said.

Experts also point to two gaping loopholes in the law. Goods made with forced labor must be allowed into the U.S. if consumer demand cannot be met without them. And it's hard, if not impossible, to prove fish in a particular container is tainted, because different batches generally mix together at processing plants.

Former Justice Department attorney Jim Rubin said Customs can't stop trafficked goods without the help of other federal agencies to investigate overseas.

"You can't expect a Customs guy at the border to know that a can of salmon caught on the

high seas was brought in by a slave," he said.

The U.S. response to Thailand is also shaped by political considerations.

For years, the State Department has put Thailand on the watchlist in its annual trafficking report, saying the Thai government has made efforts to stop labor abuse. But last year, after several waivers, it dropped Thailand for the first time to the lowest rank, mentioning forced labor in the seafood industry. Countries with the same ranking, such as Cuba, Iran and North Korea, faced full sanctions, and foreign aid was withheld. Others, like Sudan, Syria and Zimbabwe, faced partial sanctions.

Thailand did not: U.S. taxpayers provided \$18.5 million in foreign aid to the country last year.

"If Thailand was North Korea or Iran, they'd be treated differently," said Josh Kurlantzick, a fellow for Southeast Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations. "They're a key ally and we have a long relationship with them."

In the 1960s and '70s, when the U.S. needed Thailand's help in the Vietnam War, the country "got a pass on everything," Kurlantzick said. Then Thailand's

record on human rights gradually improved, along with its economy. That changed dramatically in 2006, when the military first ousted the prime minister. It declared martial law and then overtook the government again last year.

In response, the U.S. condemned the current regime and has suspended \$4.7 million in military funding to the Southeast Asian nation.

However, the U.S. still includes Thailand in military exercises, and the country is considered a critical ally against terrorism. A U.S. Senate report in December detailed how top al-Qaida suspect Abu Zubaydah was waterboarded, slammed into a wall and isolated at a secret safe house in Thailand as part of CIA interrogations in 2002. And in 2003, a senior al-Qaida operative was arrested outside Bangkok after more than 200 people died in a Bali nightclub bombing.

The U.S. also wants strong relations with Thailand as a counterweight to China, whose influence is growing in the region.

Along with the State Department, the Labor Department has also flagged seafood from Thailand year after year as produced by forced labor in violation of international standards. Department of Homeland Security senior policy adviser Kenneth Kennedy referred to discussions for an action plan on labor abuse in Thailand that began in the fall.

"I think the U.S. government recently has realized that we need to pay attention to this area," he said. "We need to address conditions that have been reported for years and that are in the public minds and in the public eye very much."

Thailand itself says it is tackling labor abuse. In 2003, the country launched a national campaign against criminal organizations, including traffickers. In 2008, it adopted a new anti-human trafficking law. And last month, the new junta government cited the fight against trafficking as a national priority.

"This government is determined and committed to solving the human trafficking issues, not by words but by actions," deputy government spokesman Maj. Gen. Sansern Kaewkamnerd said. "We are serious in prosecuting every individual involved in the network, from the boats' captains to government officials."

However, a Thai police general on a fact-finding mission earlier this month to Benjina declared conditions were good and workers "happy." A day later, Indonesian authorities rescued more than 320 abused fishermen from the island village, and the number of workers waiting to be sent home has since risen to more than 560.

Environment

HONOLULU (AP) — The humpback whale became the unofficial symbol for the conservation movement in the last century.

The iconic mammal that can be found across the planet was on the verge of extinction. The international community banned whaling the species in 1966, and the U.S. government listed it as endangered four years later.

On Monday, U.S. officials proposed removing most of the world's humpback whales from the endangered species list, noting their recovery after 45 years of protection and restoration efforts is a remarkable achievement.

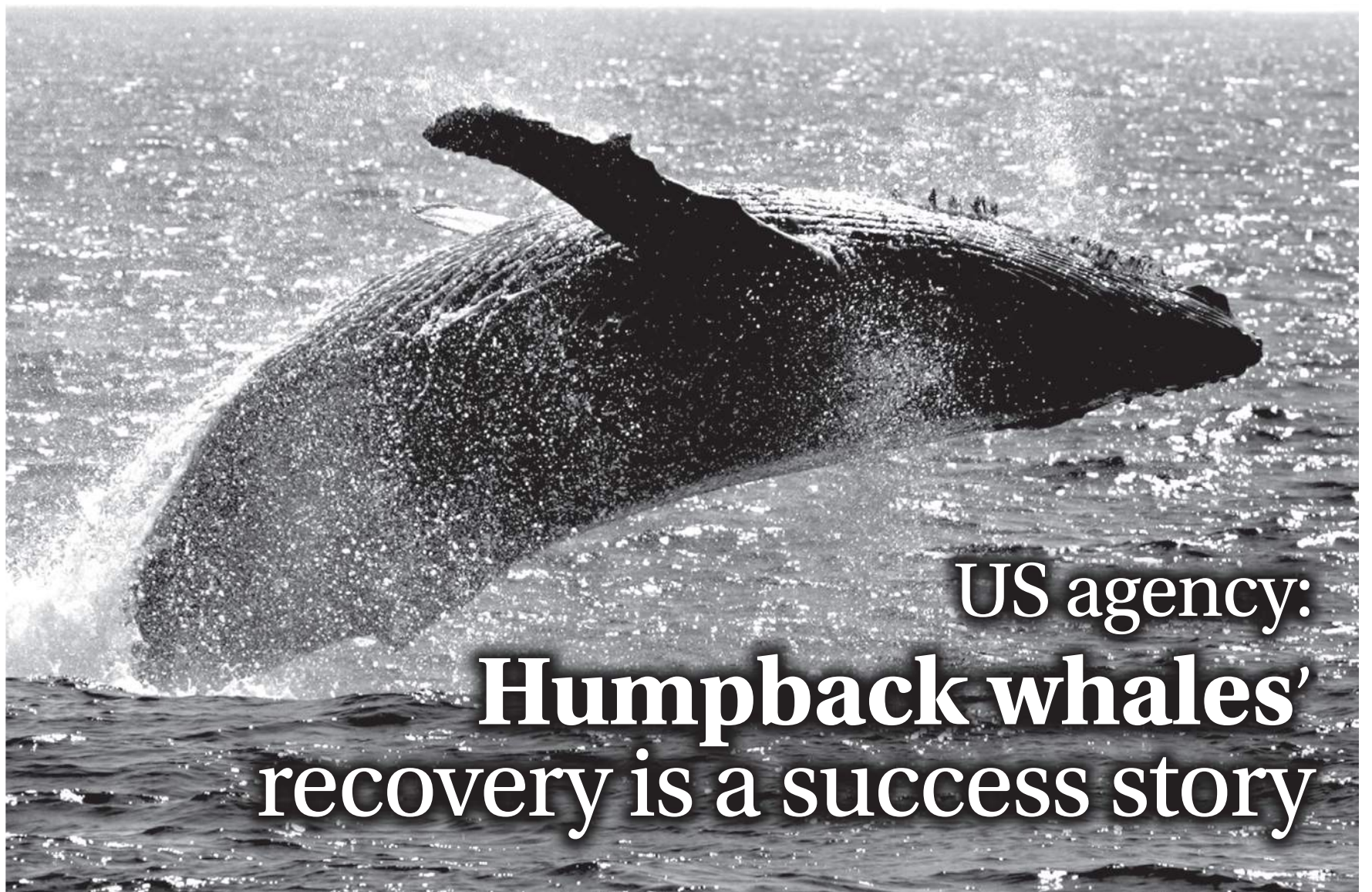
"To be able to bring a species to a point where their population is doing well and they no longer meet those requirements to be on the endangered species act, I think that is a really important success for us as a nation," said Donna Weiting, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's protected resources office.

"So I think it's quite a big deal," she said at a news conference.

The agency is proposing dividing humpback whale populations into 14 categories and removing 10 of them from the endangered list. Of the remaining four categories, two would be listed as threatened, and the other two would stay on the endangered list.

But just because the animal could be taken off the endangered list doesn't mean there soon will be hunting seasons again.

All the whales remain protected under the Marine Mam-



US agency: Humpback whales' recovery is a success story

In this Jan. 23, 2005 file photo, a humpback whale leaps out of the water in the channel off the town of Lahaina on the island of Maui in Hawaii.

AP

mals Protection Act, and the United States is still an active member of the International Whaling Commission, which banned commercial whaling in 1966, said Angela Somma, chief of NOAA Fisheries' endangered species division.

Just a few places in the world allow humpback whale hunting, and that's for aboriginal subsistence only, accord-

ing to the commission's website. Three nations—Japan, Norway and Iceland—still allow the mammals to be killed for scientific research.

Humans hunted humpbacks in much higher numbers before their listing as endangered in 1970.

Officials say protection and restoration efforts have since increased the whales' num-

bers in many areas. Marta Nammack, NOAA Fisheries' national Endangered Species Act listing coordinator, estimates the global population of humpbacks at around 90,000.

Decisions on which humpback groups to recommend for delisting were based on many factors, including the risks they face. The single largest threat to humpbacks is

fishing activities that result in the whales becoming tangled in fishing gear and drowning, NOAA officials said.

Rebecca Noblin, Alaska director for the Center for Biological Diversity, said the whales' consideration for removal from the list is a good sign, but it might be premature.

Whales continue to be vulnerable to factors including climate change and ocean acidification, which affects their prey stock, she said.

"It would really be beneficial to continue to have the protections of the Endangered Species Act as the oceans change," she said.

New York aims to cut waste by 90 percent by 2030

NEW YORK (AP)—The nation's biggest city, in a far-reaching effort to limit its impact on the environment, is set to mark Earth Day by announcing the ambitious goal of reducing its waste output by more than 3 million tons by 2030.

The Zero Waste plan, which includes an overhaul of the city's recycling program, incentives to reduce waste and tacit support for the City Council's plan to dramatically reduce the use of plastic bags, will be announced by Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio on Wednesday. Its goal is sweeping: New York would be the largest city in the Western Hemisphere to adopt the plan, which aims to reduce the amount of its waste by 90 percent from its 2005 level of 3.6 million tons.

The waste reduction plan is part of an update to the sustainability project named PlaNYC, created by de Blasio's predecessor, Michael Bloomberg, to provide a framework for mitigating the impacts of population

growth and a changing climate on the city's infrastructure. De Blasio, who largely praised PlaNYC, is keeping some of its components but is rebranding it OneNYC, which means One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City.

"The average New Yorker throws out nearly 15 pounds of waste a week, adding up to millions upon millions of tons a year," de Blasio said in a statement to The Associated Press. "To be a truly sustainable city, we need to tackle this challenge head on."

For decades, the city's trash has been exported by rail or barge and sent to facilities in South Carolina, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania or upstate New York. The new plan would eliminate almost all of the garbage exports, which currently cost more than \$350 million a year.

The amount of waste produced by the city has fallen 14 percent since 2005 due to an increase in recycling, and a key

component of the Zero Waste plan is to bolster that output by simplifying the process.

Currently, residential buildings have two types of recycling bins. The city's new single-stream plan, which is already used by other cities, would consolidate all of the recycling into one type of bin by 2020.

Organics—food scraps, yard waste and other things that cannot be recycled—make up 31 percent of the city's residential waste stream. A program to collect that material directly from residents' homes is being expanded to nearly 200,000 residents by year's end, and officials want to serve every home in the city by the end of 2018. The city, which has about 9 million residents, also will offer economic incentives to participate, including potentially a property tax rebate for homeowners.

The city also aims to reduce commercial waste by 90 percent by 2030 by adopting a program similar to what is being used with residential buildings. That

could also mean tax incentives for businesses who participate and fines for those who don't.

And while the de Blasio administration stopped short of endorsing a City Council bill that proposes a 10-cent fee for use of plastic shopping bags, officials said that reducing their use is a priority and that they would coordinate efforts with the council.

A spokeswoman for de Blasio said some of the funding for the Zero Waste program would be revealed in next month's budget proposal but noted there would also be cost savings due to the dramatic reduction of garbage being shipped out of state.

The OneNYC presentation, which also is going to include other capital expenditures meant to improve the city's aging infrastructure, is meant to build on de Blasio's environmental record, which includes a ban on Styrofoam boxes and the goal to reduce carbon emissions from city buildings by 80 percent by 2050.

White House releases energy plan to fight climate change

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The White House on Tuesday released a four-year energy plan designed to fight climate change, modernize power plants and find other ways to ensure the nation a steady supply of safe energy.

Vice President Joe Biden is planning to visit Peco Energy Co. in Philadelphia on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.

The report said the U.S. has become the world's leading producer of oil and natural gas combined as its dependence on foreign oil declines.

The review also found that electricity from solar sources has increased 20-fold since 2008, while the amount of wind energy produced has tripled.

Administration officials have been meeting with major utility firms, experts and other stakeholders to assess the nation's energy situation and analyze future needs.

"Responding to these trends and issues ... will require that

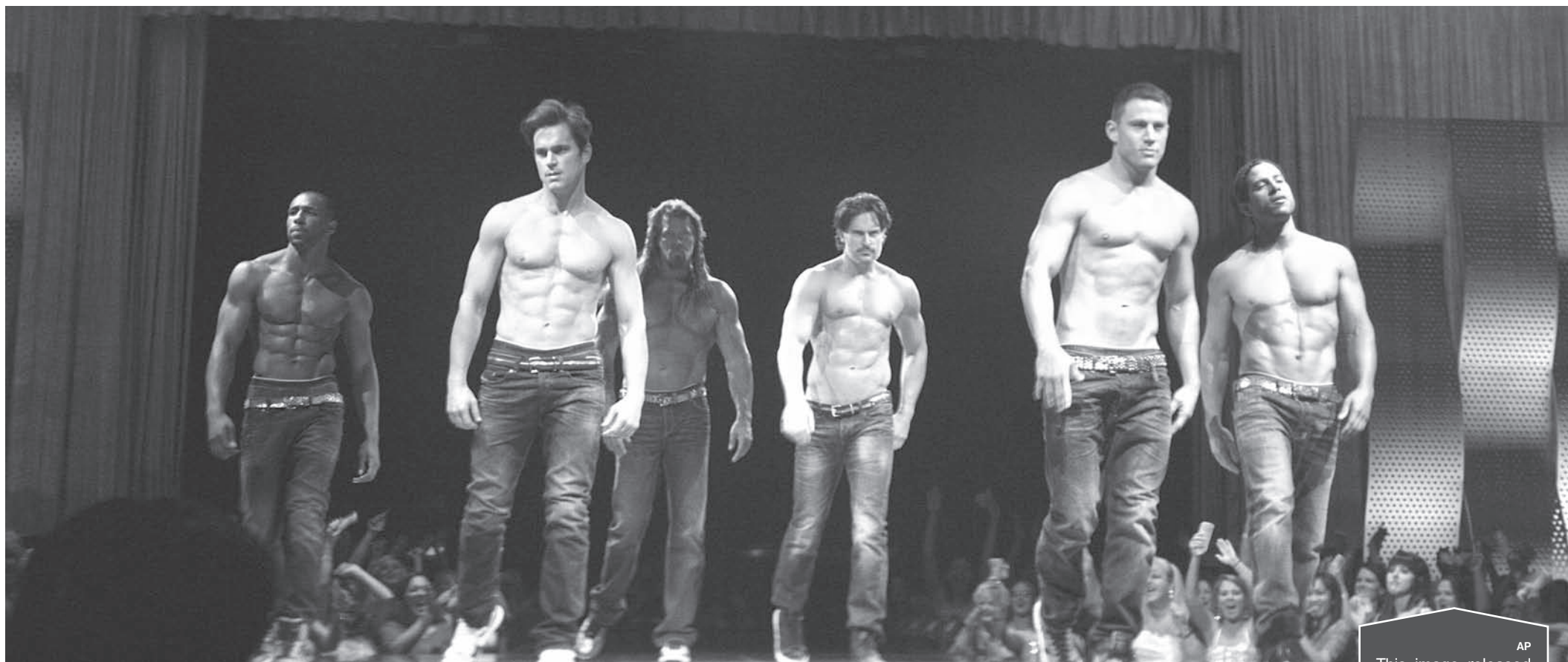
we address the growing vulnerabilities posed by climate change, the evolving energy mix, cyber and physical threats, growing interdependencies, aging infrastructure, and workforce needs," the White House said in a press release Tuesday accompanying the report.

Officials say the challenges ahead include protecting energy plants from cyber and physical threats; moving liquid fuels and electricity from supply regions to demand centers; and preparing workers for 21st century jobs in energy industries.

"Approximately 1 million people were employed in energy transmission, storage, and distribution jobs in 2013. By making smart investments, there is the potential to support 1.5 million additional energy sector jobs," the White House said.

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and John Holdren, policy director of the White House Office of Science and Technology, plan to join Biden in Philadelphia.

Life & Style



AP
This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows a scene from "Magic Mike XXL," in theaters on July 1.

NEW YORK (AP)—"I'll be back," the line Arnold Schwarzenegger first uttered more than 30 years ago in that indelible manly monotone, belongs to the Terminator, of course. But it also might as well be the official slogan of the summer movie season.

It's the time of year when Hollywood's older, reliable brands, with the tenacity of Schwarzenegger's lethal cyborg, claw their way back onto the big screen in a popcorn parade of big-budget sequels, reboots and re-dos. That's nothing new, but the extent of the sequel spinning is.

The sequel expansion—as headlong as Tom Cruise in the "Mission: Impossible" movies—runs in all directions, stretching into prequels, secondary reboots, spinoffs and franchises that are less linear, roman-numeral progressions than (as in the brimming Marvel world) whole universes of overlapping characters: fantasy realms to visit, not just stories to follow.

To fuel the proliferation, Hollywood is dipping ever deeper into its vaults: 10 of this summer's most anticipated blockbusters have origins dating back more than three decades, including "Fantastic Four," "The Man From U.N.C.L.E.," "Mad Max: Fury Road" and "Terminator: Genisys," the fifth film in the series created by James Cameron in 1984. Schwarzenegger is back to say that he's back.

Nostalgia and familiarity mingle with updated special effects and new cast members in these films to render something that hopefully feels fresh to moviegoers. As the "Fast and Furious" series (more profitable in its seventh installment than ever before) has proven this spring, the lifespan of the sequels no longer adheres to the old rules of inevitable decay—at least for now.

The ever-lengthening life of franchises can make for some

strange off-screen realities, and not just for 67-year-old Terminators. "Mad Max: Fury Road" (May 15), is returning decades later with its original creator, the Australian director George Miller.

"One of the most jolting experiences of my life was to go to SXSW and watch 'Road Warrior: Mad Max 2' in a newly minted print for the first time in 32 years and then showing scenes from 'Fury Road' all these years later," says Miller. "It was a kind of a time travel. It was a strange but powerful experience."

There is blunt mathematics behind the proliferating franchises. The top six summer films at the box office in 2013 were sequels. Last summer, all of the top 10 movies were sequels, reboots or hailed from well-known properties.

This summer, the box-office seems nearly certain to be led by "Avengers: Age of Ultron" (May 1), the sequel to the 2012 superhero team-up original, the highest grossing-summer movie ever. With \$1 billion-plus in box office assured, the financial imperative is, of course, enormous. "Age of Ultron" writer-director Joss Whedon says "making more money would be swell," but a creative purpose is still necessary. "I wanted to do better," says Whedon. "I wanted to spend more time with these guys. I just introduced them, and the movie ended. I wanted to spend time with them as a team, as comrades, with them in conflict and the fun and the humor and the pain that comes with that. I wanted to go deeper."

While Marvel's "Avengers" marches forward (a two-part sequel is planned), other franchises have progressed less predictably.

"Magic Mike," made for just \$7 million, opened in June 2012 with a remarkable \$39.1 million and went on to gross \$167 million worldwide. A male strip-

They Will Be Back: Sequels multiply in summer movie season

per romp that winks to the real past of producer-star Channing Tatum, it returns July 1 with "Magic Mike XXL." It's the classic kind of sequel—a road trip—albeit one with an especially untraditional destination: a Florida stripper convention Tatum attended before his acting career took off.

The premise still makes director Gregory Jacobs chuckle.

"We started thinking about a sequel, honestly, really early on," says Jacobs, a producer and assistant director on the first "Magic Mike," now taking over for director Steven Soderbergh. "We all loved this idea of a road trip with these guys; we

just couldn't fit it into the first movie."

"Magic Mike XXL" is joined by a handful of sequels that come from fairly recent films: the teen musical "Pitch Perfect 2" on May 15; the "Despicable Me" spinoff "Minions" on July 10; Seth MacFarlane's comedy "Ted 2" on June 26.

But the bulk of the summer season will depend on older franchises, some of which are counting on moviegoer amnesia.

"Jurassic World" (June 12), stuck in development for a decade, is the fourth installment in the franchise that has been dormant (but not extinct) since 2001's "Jurassic Park III." Its

star, Chris Pratt, led last summer's runaway hit, "Guardians of the Galaxy."

"Fantastic Four" (Aug. 7), starring Miles Teller and Michael B. Jordan, is an attempt to reboot the Marvel foursome after the little loved "Fantastic Four" gave it a go just 10 years ago, and was followed by a 2007 "Silver Surfer" sequel.

The futuristic "Tomorrowland" (May 22), directed by Brad Bird ("Ratatouille," "The Incredibles") and co-starring George Clooney, comes from the producers behind "Pirates of the Caribbean" and hopes to turn another Disney theme park attraction into a massive franchise.

"Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation" (July 31), the fifth entry to the Tom Cruise action series, isn't the only film trading off an old television show. "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." (Aug. 14) is Guy Ritchie's take on the '60s spy series. HBO's "Entourage" (June 5) will also get a big-screen swan song about four years after the show's finale.

With so many name-brand films clustered together in the summer, box-office analysts like Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Rentrak, predicts this season will lead Hollywood to a record year. That would be welcome news for the industry, following a limp 2014 summer.

10 originals to look for in Hollywood's summer sequel season

NEW YORK (AP)—The summer movie season isn't just sequels and reboots. OK, well, it mostly is. But there are originals trying to squeak through, too. Here are 10 to look for this summer:

1. "Inside Out" (June 19)—By June, it will have been two years since the last Pixar release ("Monsters University"). They have been missed. The pressure will be on Pixar's latest, about the voices inside the mind of a young girl, to rekindle absolute faith in the animation studio. But with one of Pixar's top talents, Pete Docter ("Up," "Monsters, Inc."), directing, hopes are deservedly high for "Inside Out."

2. "Spy" (June 5)—Melissa McCarthy stumbled last summer with the poorly received

"Tammy," but in "Spy," she's back with writer-director Paul Feig ("Bridesmaids," "The Heat") for a European spy spoof. Expect a lot of wigs.

3. "Aloha" (May 29)—Writer-director Cameron Crowe ("Jerry Maguire," "Almost Famous") can be counted on for something hard to come by in the summer: funny, heartwarming tales about humans. His latest stars Bradley Cooper as a defense contractor in Hawaii, along with Emma Stone and Rachel McAdams.

4. "Ricki and the Flash" (Aug. 7)—Meryl Streep stars as the aging lead singer and guitarist in a cover band, playing everything from Springsteen to Lady Gaga. Enough said?

5. "Straight Outta Comp-ton" (Aug. 14)—With Death

Row Records co-founder Mario "Suge" Knight awaiting trial for murder, there should be plenty of off-screen drama surrounding this film about the emergence of the revolutionary hip-hop group NWA.

6. "Me and Earl and the Dying Girl" (June 12)—This cancer drama, based on Jesse Andrews' novel, has more laughter than you'd expect and was a hit at the Sundance Film Festival.

7. "Southpaw" (July 24)—A bulked-up Jake Gyllenhaal enters the ring in this gritty boxing drama from director Antoine Fuqua.

8. "Trainwreck" (July 17)—That this is the first film Judd Apatow has directed that he hasn't also written is probably a testament to his faith

in Amy Schumer. The "Inside Amy Schumer" star transitions to the big screen in this comedy. Schumer also wrote about a commitment-averse woman.

9. "Good Kill" (May 15)—In Andrew Niccol's drama, Ethan Hawke stars as an Air Force drone pilot, leading missions from a base outside Las Vegas.

10. "Dope" (June 19)—One of the buzziest films at Sundance, Rick Famuyiwa's indie teen caper comes with the backing of producers Forest Whitaker and Pharrell Williams.

Others to remember: "Infinitely Polar Bear" (June 19); "Love and Mercy" (June 5); "Far From the Madding Crowd" (May 1); "Slow West" (May 15).

Robert Downey says he was 'den mother' on 'Avengers' set

LONDON (AP)—It's hard to imagine Robert Downey Jr. as the authoritarian type, but the actor says he played a stabilizing force amid the ever-growing cast of superheroes during the filming of "Avengers: Age of Ultron."

"I am an assistant den mother for him (director Joss Whedon)—we're more contemporaries," Downey said at the film's London premiere on Tuesday, where he was accompanied by others in the cast, including Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth and Mark

Ruffalo.

"With some younger talent, they're very exuberant; I remember when I was that way. I kind of feel like I'm the assistant principal."

The 50-year-old Downey plays Iron Man in the film, the sequel to the 2012 blockbuster "Avengers" movie.

For Johansson, the screen reunion was "amazing."

"I mean first of all it's great to be able to share this experience with actors that are really friends of mine and it feels like we're all in it together," said the



AP
This photo provided by Disney/Marvel shows, Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man/Tony Stark in the film, "Avengers: Age of Ultron." The movie releases in U.S. theaters on May 1, 2015.

like I've snuck in."

This is Whedon's last "Avengers" movie—at least for now. He'll hand over the reins of the franchise to "Captain America: Winter Soldier" directors Anthony Russo and Joe Russo for the two-part "Avengers: Infinity War," due out in 2018 and 2019.

The director admits he has mixed feelings about saying goodbye.

"Yeah it's sort of like sending your kid off to college, it's like wow, they really don't need me anymore, do they?" he said, pretending to sob. "At the same time it's like, 'My kid's gone, party all night!' You know, I'm going to pick my actual kids up from school, I'm going to read books, it's going to get crazy."

"Avengers: Age of Ultron" is set to open in U.S. theatres on May 1, but it's opening in other countries earlier.

Cruise wows CinemaCon with look at 'Mission' stunts

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Tom Cruise revealed Tuesday at a surprise appearance at CinemaCon in Las Vegas that he actually hung off the side of an airplane in the film "Mission: Impossible—Rogue Nation."

The actor said he performed the stunt, which involved a massive Airbus A400M taking off and flying to 5,000 feet, eight times with a harness attaching him to the aircraft.

Cruise said he was terrified throughout, having to worry about particles from the runway, jet fuel fumes and even birds.

"I want to keep audiences on the edge of their seats," he said.

Cruise introduced two new clips from the film as part of Paramount Pictures' presentation to the nation's theater owners previewing its upcoming movies.

The first shows Cruise escaping from captivity with skillful martial arts moves alongside Rebecca Ferguson. The second is a comedic car chase with co-star Simon Pegg in the passenger's seat.

Ferguson and Pegg joined Cruise on stage but neither wore a microphone, making it even more clear that Cruise was the main event. The film is set to open on July 31.

CinemaCon is a preview of some of the year's most anticipated fare and an assurance to the people who own the theaters that the big films will be making money for them.

Arnold Schwarzenegger also took the stage to introduce a 12-minute preview of "Terminator: Genisys."

Bedecked in the character's signature leather jacket and sunglasses, Schwarzenegger joked that he wanted to make a big entrance to the event with a helicopter, motorcycle or even on a chariot surrounded by showgirls.

Schwarzenegger told the audience that he could promise them "big, big box office" with the film, which debuts on July 1.

"We all know that the first three 'Terminators'—the ones that I was involved with so they're the only ones that count—made over \$1 billion," he said.

Paramount also showed an amusing trailer from its upcoming comedy "Daddy's Home," starring Will Ferrell as a stepdad whose world is thrown when his kids' biological father, played by Mark Wahlberg, returns.

CinemaCon runs through Thursday.

actress, who plays "Black Widow." "We're all a part of something that has this huge fan base, this built-in excitement and it's

not always like that."

New this time are Aaron Taylor Johnson and Elizabeth Olsen, as Quicksilver and Scarlet

Witch, respectively.

"They've already done the work of establishing a fan base," smiled Olsen, "so I feel

PBS probes slave-owning issue; Affleck expresses regret

NEW YORK (AP)—PBS is conducting an internal review following revelations that producers of "Finding Your Roots" may have violated the network's editorial standards after a request by Ben Affleck that the program not reveal he had a slave-owning ancestor.

Meanwhile, Affleck has expressed regret for seeking to have the information omitted from the episode that featured the actor and aired last October. "We deserve neither credit nor blame for our ancestors and the degree of interest in this story suggests that we are, as a nation, still grappling with the terrible legacy of slavery," Affleck posted on his Facebook page Tuesday night.

The review by PBS and New York station WNET began Saturday, according to a statement released Tuesday by PBS spokeswoman Anne Bentley.

"We have been moving forward deliberately yet swiftly to conduct this review," she said.

In his Facebook post, Affleck acknowledges that, initially, "I didn't want any television show about my family to include a guy who owned slaves. I was embarrassed."

He says he lobbied Henry Louis Gates, the Harvard scholar who hosts and produces the show, "the same way I lobby directors about what takes of mine I think they should use."

"It's important to remember that this isn't a news program," Affleck said of "Finding Your Roots," which traces the ancestry of well-known guests. "You voluntarily provide a great deal of information about your family, making you quite vulnerable. The assumption is that they will never be dishonest but they will respect your willingness to participate and not look to include things you think would embarrass your family."

Affleck's request came to

light last week in hacked Sony emails published online by whistleblower site WikiLeaks.

Gates and PBS said then they didn't censor the slave-owner details. Instead, more interesting ancestors

of the actor emerged and Gates chose to highlight them instead.

But in an email exchange between Gates and Sony Pictures co-chairman and chief executive Michael Lynton—part of a trove of hundreds of thousands of emails and documents from last year's Sony hack published online by WikiLeaks—Gates asks Lynton for advice on how to handle Affleck's request.

"Here's my dilemma," says Gates in one email, dated July 22, 2014—"confidentially, for the first time, one of our guests has asked us to edit out something about one of his ancestors—the fact that he owned slaves. Now, four or five of our

guests this season descend from slave owners, including (profiling documentary filmmaker) Ken Burns. We've never had anyone ever try to censor or edit what we found. He's a megastar. What do we do?"

Lynton replies that it all depends on who knows that the information was in the documentary already.

"I would take it out if no one knows, but if it gets out that you are editing the material based on this kind of sensitivity then it gets tricky. Again, all things being equal I would definitely take it out," Lynton wrote that same day.

When the segment aired Oct. 14, Gates focused on an Affleck ancestor who was an occultist, a Revolutionary War relative and Affleck's mother, who was a "freedom rider" in 1964.

On Saturday, PBS said the network did not know of the exchanges between Gates, Sony and Affleck, and wasn't part of editorial decisions made by Gates and his fellow producers.

Resentment is the thanks mom gets for helping son's family

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Rick," and daughter-in-law, "Amy," seem to really dislike me. I try to be kind and not pry, but they live with me and it can make for a full house. They have had job difficulties and work injuries that brought them back to my home. Her parents don't care for my son, so living there was not an option.

Amy does not help at all with the housework. Rick does most of it. They also have a wonderful 21-month-old boy. A second baby is on the way. They have lived with me for four years now.

Abby, Amy shows no respect for my home or for me. I mostly keep quiet so as to not push away my only son. I want to be part of my grandson's life. Please advise me on handling this matter.

UNDervalued OUT WEST

DEAR UNDERVALUED: By allowing your son and daughter-in-law to live with you for such an extended period of time, you have fostered their dependence on you. That may be why your daughter-in-law is resentful rather than grateful for your generosity in giving them a roof over their heads.

That they would conceive a second child under these circumstances—without jobs and no place of their own—tells me they are immature and irresponsible. Give them a date to

be out—say one month—and stick to it. If they want to know why, tell them the truth. You should not have to live in a house with a daughter-in-law who treats you like the enemy because it is not healthy for any of you.

If you are afraid the only way to have a relationship with your grandchildren is to tolerate being used, I think you are mistaken. As long as you can provide material assistance to these two, they'll keep you around.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for almost 31 years. We have had a good marriage, but for the last couple of years, my husband has told me that I snore when we go to sleep at night.

He is a very light sleeper, and understandably, it wakes him and then he wakes me to make me stop. This goes on all night long. Needless to say, neither of us is happy in the morning. We have now started sleeping in separate rooms.

The issue I am having now is, my husband will be retiring in a few months and he wants us to do a lot of traveling, mainly cruising. I'm not sure how this will work with our new sleeping arrangement.

SLEEPY IN ALABAMA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR SLEEPY: Have you discussed your snoring with your physician? Snoring can be a symptom of a medical problem that's fixable. When your husband first told you about it, you should have mentioned it to your doctor. Ear plugs might help your husband, but if there is a medical solution for your snoring, it would make your problem moot.

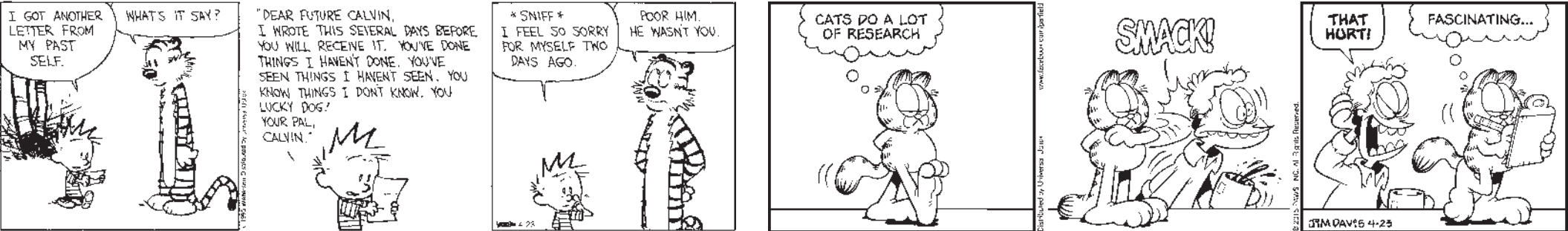
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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

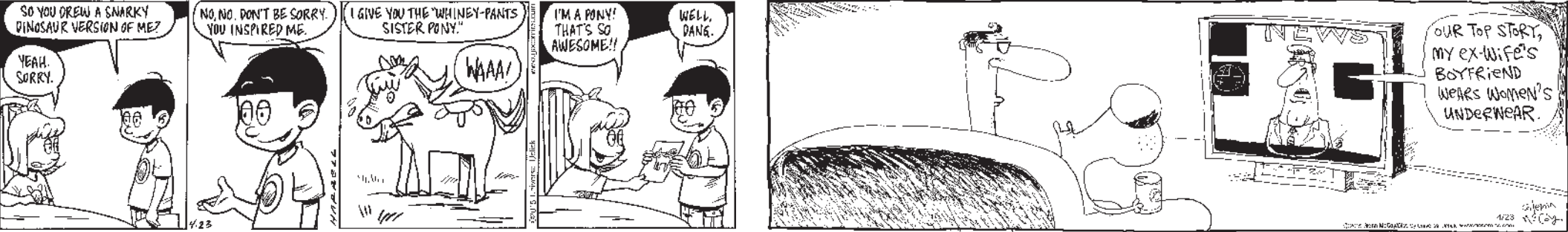
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 From square one 5 Orsk's river 9 Bumped into 12 — noire 13 Narc's measure 14 Skilled fighter pilot 15 Feb. 2 17 That lass 18 Puts on a show 19 Salts town 21 Ego counter-part 22 Binge 24 Base runner's goal 27 "I — Camera" 28 Rodents do it 31 Playwright Levin 32 Folk-song mule 33 Bambi's aunt

DOWN 34 Network 36 Doctrine 37 Charon's river 38 Ark contents 40 Apr., e.g. 41 Verify 43 Movie theater 47 Disen-cumber 48 Complete views 51 Commotion 52 Wreck 53 Stop-watch noise 54 Chaps 55 Look lecher-ously 56 Belliger-ent deity

23 Good place to get a date 24 That guy 25 Tramcar contents 26 Ele-phant's ancestor 27 — Minor 29 One or more 30 Main ingredient in lipstick 35 Carpool-lane abbr. 37 Beetho-ven piece 39 Copy 40 Bygone space station 41 Baby carriage 42 Carnival attraction 43 Traffic pylon 44 Eastern potentate 45 Pepper spray brand 46 Requests 49 Summer-time mo. 50 Zero

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dev Patel, 25; Jaime King, 36; Jonathan Ruckman, 46; George Lopez, 54.

Happy Birthday: Make plans that will help you reach your goal. Don't let anyone sidetrack you or involve you in costly ventures that will waste your time and money. Be creative and come up with your own ideas and plans. Search for destinations, courses and networking functions that deal with the subjects, interests and industries that interest you most. Put yourself first. Your numbers are 4, 17, 23, 27, 32, 41, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional matters will escalate if you are inconsistent or unpredictable. Try to keep an even, peaceful temperament to avoid an adverse response. Put more effort into activities that challenge you mentally and physically. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful not to let your entertaining and social mood lead to costly adventures. Pleasure trips will enhance love and romance, but also put you in debt. Good opportunities will arise through communication and patience. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for new ways to use your talents. Opportunities are apparent if you are willing to explore new avenues. Believe in your potential. A change at home will bring you greater freedom to do the things you enjoy. Love will take a serious turn. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let moodiness ruin your day. Let go of regrets and don't hold grudges. Do what you can to help others, and learn from whatever

experience you gain and information you are given. Positive, progressive action will bring stellar results. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your intentions and professional strategy a secret from your colleagues. If you let too many people in on what you are doing, you will face stiff competition. Hone your skills, gain knowledge and prepare to forge ahead with your plans. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have plenty to contribute, so don't hold back. Share your wisdom and make suggestions. Thoughts followed by actions will lead to your success and encourage unexpected and unusual partnerships. Don't hesitate; make your way to where the action is. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems due to an emotional incident will leave you feeling like you need a change. Do something that makes you feel good about yourself personally and professionally. Romance is on the rise, along with greater security and stability. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will have a greater interest in cultural differences and traditions. Check out your family tree or plan a visit to re-establish family ties. Let your intuition lead the way in helping you explore new possibilities and lifestyles. Speak from the heart. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Live, learn and prepare to make changes that will improve your life. A new residence or rearranging your furniture to make room for a new pursuit will lead to good fortune. Open your heart to someone special. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Live a little. Invite friends or colleagues to enjoy a little downtime with you. Turn your home into a place where you can relax and discuss future plans. Much can be accomplished if you use empathy, understanding and compassion to get your way. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make personal changes that won't affect anyone but you, and you will avoid an argument or interference. Someone will blow situations out of proportion if given the chance. Keep your thoughts and plans private for the time being. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get ready to have some fun. Reconnect with old friends, share your ideas and look at your options concerning your professional position and the opportunities that exist. A positive change to the way you live will boost your morale. *****

Birthday Baby: You have charm, compassion and understanding. You are sensitive and imaginative. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/23

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HAND ANTISEPTIC Solution: 9 letters

S A S E H S R E Z I T I N A S
P L N P N O K Y T N E V L O S
R R O T O E H I S C H O O L S
A A O H I T I M N S P T O I T
Y R I T O B S G A C H N S V N
T E E R E C I S Y E A M T I E
I H F S E C L O R H R R A R I
L T G L T T A T E G C E U D
A A C B R C E G I G E S S E
T L U A H O A B N C N L E R
I R V T Z G O B U I S I S G
P C E L R S E N M S R H D F N
S L A U S E P S I S O N S U I
O E B O T T L E S T A A S A S
H S N E E Z I N G H S E P I W

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Yesterday's Answer: Skates

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Wall has 26 points, 17 assists, Wizards rout Raptors, 117-106



TORONTO (AP)—John Wall had 26 points and 17 assists, Bradley Beal scored 28 points and the Washington Wizards beat the Toronto Raptors 117-106 on Tuesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Marcin Gortat scored 16 points, Otto Porter had 15 and Paul Pierce added 10 for the Wizards, who host Game 3 on Friday night.

Jonas Valanciunas had 15 points and 10 rebounds and Sixth Man Award winner Lou Williams scored 20 points for the Raptors, who have lost four straight playoff games over the past two seasons.

Washington lost 15 of its final 19 regular season road games, but has won seven of eight away from home in the playoffs over the past two years. The Wizards won all three road games while beating Chicago in last year's first round.

DeMar DeRozan scored 20 points, Patrick Patterson had 15 and Amir Johnson added 10 for Toronto, which has won just one playoff series in six previous postseason appearances.

All-Star guard Kyle Lowry, who fouled out of Game 1 with seven points after missing eight of 10 shots, struggled again. Lowry limped to the locker room midway through the fourth quarter and did not re-



Washington Wizards guard John Wall (2) drives past Toronto Raptors forward Amir Johnson (15) during the first half in Game 2 in the first round of the NBA basketball playoffs, Tuesday, April 21, 2015, in Toronto. AP

turn. He finished with six points on 3-of-10 shooting.

The Wizards connected on 27 of 39 field goal attempts in the second and third quarters.

Washington, which out rebounded Toronto 61-48 in Game 1, was dominant on the glass again. The Wizards fin-

ished with 45 rebounds while the Raptors had 28. Toronto didn't get a single offensive rebound in the first half.

Patterson made two 3-pointers in a 10-0 run as the Raptors cut it to 102-89 with 6:35 left. After a Wizards timeout, Beal stopped the run with a jumper.

A 3 by Greivis Vasquez made it 106-96 at 3:23, but the Raptors couldn't get any closer.

Toronto took a 12-2 lead and held a 31-26 edge after one quarter. DeRozan scored nine points in the first and Valanciunas had eight.

Just as they did in Saturday's Game 1 win, the Wizards used a second-quarter surge to take the lead. Beal scored 16 points in the second, including a 3 that started a 13-0 run to put the Wizards up 60-49 at halftime. The

Raptors struggled after Lowry picked up his second and third fouls in an 11-second span and spent the final 9:18 of the half on the bench.

The Raptors opened the third with a 12-3 spurt, cutting the deficit to 63-61, but Washington responded with 10 straight points to restore its double-digit lead. Wall scored 10 points in the third as the Wizards took a 97-75 lead into the fourth, leading to boos from the Air Canada Centre crowd.

Cavaliers 99, Celtics 91

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 30 points, Kyrie Irving added 26 and Cleveland finally shook off Boston in the fourth quarter to take a 2-0 lead in their opening-round series.

James scored 15 points in the fourth quarter, moved past Hall of Famer Jerry West on the career playoff scoring list and made sure the Cavs didn't slip up at home. He and Irving combined for all of Cleveland's 24 points in the final period.

Timofey Mozgov added 16 points and Tristan Thompson had 11 rebounds for Cleveland.

Isaiah Thomas scored 22 points for the Celtics, whose bench outscored Cleveland's 51-7.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Boston.

Rockets 111, Mavericks 99

In Houston, Dwight Howard scored 28 points and James Harden added 24 to help Houston coast to a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference playoff series.

Howard and Josh Smith dominated early in the fourth quarter to help the Rockets pull away.

The Mavericks scored the first four points of the fourth quarter to take a three-point lead. But with Harden on the bench, Houston scored the next 11 points, powered by three alley-oop passes from Smith to Howard, to take a 92-84 lead with about 8 minutes left.

Smith finished with 15 points, nine assists and eight rebounds.

Monta Ellis had 24 points for Dallas, which hosts Game 3 on Friday night.

Atlanta's Budenholzer voted NBA coach of the year

ATLANTA (AP)—Mike Budenholzer was right where he didn't want to be: the center of attention.

There was no avoiding it. Not after leading the Atlanta Hawks to the top of the Eastern Conference.

Budenholzer was honored as the NBA coach of the year on Tuesday, an award that moved him to tears as he spoke about the people who meant so much to his career.

His players. His father. Danny Ferry. And, of course, Gregg Popovich.

"Winning this award evokes a lot of emotions," Budenholzer said, choking up several times.

He is clearly uncomfortable in the spotlight, rarely opening up about anything more than the next game. So it didn't sound like polite modesty when he said he would have preferred for Golden State's Steve Kerr to win the award.

Kerr, whose team finished an NBA-best 67-15 in his first season with the Warriors, was second in the balloting, the only other candidate to receive serious consideration.

"I don't want to sound like I'm not appreciative of it," Budenholzer said after a ceremony at Philips Arena. "But in a perfect world, I'd be somewhere else."

A longtime assistant under Popovich at San Antonio, Budenholzer won the Red Au-

erbach Trophy for guiding the Hawks to a 60-22 mark during the regular season, the best in franchise history.

"He's a wonderful person, a heck of a coach," Popovich said in Los Angeles, where the Spurs were playing the Clippers in the Western Conference playoffs. "It's great that people noticed and understood what a good job he did. I'm sure he doesn't even know which way to turn, but he's a happy camper, for sure."

The Hawks had a 19-game winning streak, became the first NBA team to go 17-0 during a calendar month, and cruised to their first division title since 1994, which also was the last time they held a No. 1 seed.

"He deserves it," said Jeff Teague, the Hawks' All-Star point guard. "He's made me a better player. He's made our team better."

Budenholzer received 67 first-place votes and 513 points overall in balloting by sports writers and broadcasters. Kerr received 56 first-place votes and 471 points. Milwaukee's Jason Kidd was a distant third.

"I'm actually really glad Mike won," Kerr said. "I just got into this gig. It would've felt really weird to win that award when this team has had so much success and was already really good last year before I got here."

Indeed, while the Warriors

put together one of the great seasons in NBA history, they did go 51-31 under former coach Mark Jackson. Atlanta went 38-44 during Budenholzer's injury-filled debut season with the Hawks, a result that was not unexpected given the team's almost total makeover the past couple of years.

"Mike has transformed that team," said Kerr, whose team is up 2-0 in its playoff series against New Orleans.

The Hawks' turnaround is even more impressive given their troubled offseason. Emails emerged showing owner Bruce Levenson made racially charged comments about the fan base, prompting him to put the team up for sale.

Not long after, it was revealed that Ferry—the team's general manager, architect of the roster overhaul, and the one who hired Budenholzer—made racially insensitive comments during a conference call to discuss the potential signing of free agent Luol Deng. Ferry was forced to take an indefinite leave that lasted all season.

The 45-year-old Budenholzer, with help from assistant GM Wes Wilcox, took control of player personnel matters as well as his coaching duties. He molded a tight-knit unit that has been willing to sacrifice individual stats for the good of the team.

Raptors' Lou Williams wins NBA Sixth Man Award

TORONTO (AP)—What started as a song has become reality for Raptors guard Lou Williams.

Williams won the NBA Sixth Man Award on Monday, honored as the league's best reserve after averaging a career-best 15.5 points in his 10th season and helping Toronto win a franchise-record 49 games.

"It couldn't happen at a better time for me," Williams said as he picked up the award in a ceremony at a downtown hotel with several teammates, his mother, brother, two daughters and his former high school coach watching. "Everything is right in the world."

Williams was mentioned in the lyrics of the song "6 Man" by Toronto rapper Drake, who is also the Raptors' global ambassador. The song came out in February, right around the NBA's All-Star weekend.

"Drake got it right," Raptors forward Patrick Patterson said. "He made the song for a reason. He predicted the future."

Williams, who also appeared in the song's video, called the experience "cool."

"I have a soundtrack to go with the award," he said.

What did Drake give him for

his efforts?

"I got like 100,000 Instagram followers," Williams said, laughing.

The first Raptor to win the award, Williams received 78 first-place votes and 502 points from a panel of 130 sports writers and broadcasters throughout the U.S. and Canada. Isaiah Thomas of the Boston Celtics finished second with 324 points (33 first-place votes). Two-time winner Jamal Crawford of the Los Angeles Clippers was third with 131 points (eight first-place votes).

Teammate DeMar DeRozan praised Williams for the spark he gave Toronto's offense.

"He's a lethal dude to have coming off the bench" DeRozan said. "He'll affect the game so much by getting to the free throw line, drawing fouls, getting teams in the penalty and running off 12 or 13 points in eight minutes."

Williams came off the bench in all 80 of his appearances and averaged 25.2 minutes. He led or tied for the team lead in scoring 18 times, second-most in the league for a reserve. The Raptors went 14-4 in those games.

"Without him, we'd have been in trouble," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said.

For Williams, the award is especially meaningful because it proves he has put two injury-plagued seasons behind him.

"Today is a special day just to commemorate everything I've been through," he said.

It's a day Williams wasn't sure he'd ever see after tearing a ligament in his right knee in January 2013 while playing for Atlanta.

"That was the closest I felt to retirement," Williams said. "It's scary."

While his knee now feels stronger than ever, the injury robbed Williams of much of his explosiveness.

"I can't jump and I can't run," he laughed. "Those are two very important things in basketball."

Fortunately, he can still shoot. Williams led the Raptors in free throw percentage (86.1) and made a career-high 152 3-pointers. He said 3-point shooting was something he worked on last summer as he struggled to overcome the injury, "knowing that I wasn't going to be able to beat guys off the dribble as I once was."

Mets win 9th in row, newcomer Plawecki and Niese beat Braves



NEW YORK

(AP)—Catcher

Kevin Plawecki made an impressive big league debut, contributing with his bat and glove as the banged-up New York Mets won their ninth straight by beating the Atlanta Braves 7-1 Tuesday night.

The Mets extended their longest winning streak since a 10-game run in 2008. The team record is 11 in a row, last done in 1990.

Curtis Granderson drove in four runs and Jonathon Niese (2-0) pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning, helping the Mets stretch the best home start in club history to 8-0 at Citi Field.

A highly regarded prospect, Plawecki got two hits, scored twice and threw out a runner trying to advance on a ball in the dirt.

Plawecki was promoted from Triple-A earlier in the day to replace catcher Travis d'Arnaud, out for at least three weeks after breaking a finger when he was hit by a pitch Sunday.

Royals 6, Twins 5

In Kansas City, Mo., Mike Moustakas hit a two-run homer, then drove in the go-ahead run with a single in the eighth inning, as the Kansas City Royals rallied over the Minnesota Twins.

The Royals trailed 5-3 in the sixth when Christian Colon started their comeback with an RBI double. Colon added a run-scoring groundout off Casey Fien (0-1) in the eighth to knot the game, and Moustakas fileted a single to left off Glen Perkins to take the lead.

Chris Young (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings in relief of struggling starter Jason Vargas, and Wade Davis breezed through the ninth for his third save of the season.

Red Sox 1, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Wade Miley and four relievers combined on a four-hitter and the Boston Red Sox took advantage of an error to beat Chris Archer.

Miley (1-1) gave up three hits, four walks and had three strikeouts over 5 2-3 innings. Alexi Ogando, Robbie Ross Jr., and Junichi Tazawa combined to retire seven straight batters. Koji Uehara allowed a leadoff single in the ninth before finishing for his second save.

Archer (2-2) allowed one unearned run and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings for the Rays, who have lost the first four games of a nine-game homestand. He struck out nine and walked one.

Yankees 5, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Chris Young and Stephen Drew homered in a three-run seventh and Nathan Eovaldi earned his first win with the New York Yankees.

Eovaldi (1-0) gave up a run on eight hits and a walk in sev-

AP
New York Mets catcher Kevin Plawecki throws back to the mound during the seventh inning of the Mets' baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Tuesday, April 21, 2015, in New York.



en-plus innings. Eovaldi started the eighth, but was removed after allowing a leadoff double to Alex Avila.

Eovaldi wasn't dominant, but got four double plays.

The Tigers scored in the ninth when Andrew Miller walked Nick Castellanos and Rajai Davis to force in a run. He then struck out Jose Iglesias for his fifth save.

Kyle Lobstein (1-1) yielded one run and three hits in six innings. Four Tigers relievers combined to allow three runs in the seventh, letting the Yankees pull away.

Giants 6, Dodgers 2

In San Francisco, Tim Lincecum shut down the first-place Dodgers with some sparkling double-play defense behind him, and the San Francisco Giants came out of their first day off seemingly refreshed.

Justin Maxwell hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning and San Francisco won for just the second time in 11 games behind Lincecum's first victory in three starts, snapping the defending division champion Dodgers' seven-game winning streak.

Nori Aoki, Brandon Crawford and Buster Posey hit RBI singles for the Giants, who turned four double plays for Lincecum (1-1) including in the first two innings.

The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner struck out five in six innings, allowing five hits and one run with three walks.

Cubs 9, Pirates 8

In Pittsburg, Starlin Castro went 3 for 5 with 4 RBIs, including a game-tying two-run single in the ninth, and the Chicago Cubs rallied for the win.

Wellington Castillo followed Castro's big hit with an RBI groundout off Pittsburgh closer

Mark Melancon (0-1) as Chicago overcame a late three-run deficit to win for the third time in four games.

Edwin Jackson (1-0) picked up the victory in relief. Hector Rondon worked a perfect ninth for his third save.

Chicago rookie Addison Russell went 0 for 5 with three strikeouts in his major league debut.

Pittsburgh's Jung Ho Kang went 2 for 4 with a bases-clearing double in the seventh for the first RBIs of his career.

Nationals 2, Cardinals 1, 10 innings

In Washington, Yunel Escobar homered to left with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning, then celebrated with a head-first slide into home plate, lifting the Washington Nationals to a victory.

It was the second homer of the season for Escobar, who was supposed to be Washington's second baseman but is filling in at third while Anthony Rendon is on the disabled list.

Escobar connected with the first pitch he saw from Carlos Villanueva (1-1), the seventh pitcher for the Cardinals, who had won five consecutive games.

Aaron Barrett (2-0) earned the win by pitching the 10th.

Reds 16, Brewers 10

In Milwaukee, Jay Bruce and Todd Frazier each hit two-out grand slams, powering the Cincinnati Reds.

Zack Cozart hit two homers for the Reds, whose offense has reawakened for 22 runs in two games in Milwaukee after manager Bryan Price went on a profanity-laced tirade in his pregame media session Monday.

Mike Fiers (0-3) was shelled for eight runs in four innings

for Milwaukee, which lost its seventh straight. The Brewers have the worst record in the majors at 2-12.

For a change, the offense wasn't the main problem for the Brewers.

Elian Herrera hit a grand slam in the sixth to get the Brewers to 13-10.

The Reds had more punch. Cozart led off the top of the seventh with a solo shot.

Blue Jays 13, Orioles 6

In Toronto, Edwin Encarnacion smashed a pair of home runs and Jose Bautista added another to power the Toronto Blue Jays.

Encarnacion's first was a leadoff shot that landed on the batter's eye beyond center field and sparked a six-run second inning.

The second for his fourth of the season was a left-field blast into the top deck of Rogers Centre. It was just the 18th home run to climb that high in the 26-year history of the stadium.

Bautista's two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh off reliever Jason Garcia was his fourth of the year and the 250th of his career. Mark Buehrle (3-0) went six innings to get his second win against the Orioles this year.

Indians 6, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Carlos Carrasco struck out eight in five innings in his first start since being hit in the face by a line drive and Carlos Santana and David Murphy smacked solo home runs.

The victory snapped a two-game losing streak on a cold night at Chicago's U.S. Cellular Field. Temperatures slipped into the lower 40s with wind chills in the 30s.

Carrasco (2-1) allowed one

earned run on four hits and no walks, looking strong a week after White Sox outfielder Melky Cabrera's liner struck him in the first inning of a 4-1 loss last Tuesday. The right hander improved to 1-1 against Chicago this season.

White Sox starter Hector Nesi (0-2) lasted 5 2-3 innings.

Angels 14, A's 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Johnny Giavotella hit a three-run shot for his first homer with the Angels after the inning was extended by a replay and the defending AL West champions so thoroughly roughed up the Athletics that Oakland first baseman Ike Davis pitched.

Kole Calhoun tied a career-best with four hits, including a three-run homer for the Angels.

Giavotella had a career-high four RBIs. He was acquired in a trade from Kansas City in December.

Davis had a 2.25 ERA at Arizona State, and he impressed in the eighth Tuesday. The lefty, son of reliever Ron Davis, retired Collin Cowgill, C.J. Cron and Chris Iannetta with groundballs, tossing only nine pitches.

Hector Santiago (2-1) allowed a run and three hits in six innings and struck out eight.

Phillies 7, Marlins 3

In Philadelphia, Ryan Howard hit a go-ahead two-run homer and Freddy Galvis also connected to back Jerome Williams.

Williams (1-1) allowed three runs—two earned—and eight hits, striking out six in six innings.

The slumping Marlins lost their fifth straight game, falling to 3-11. Manager Mike Redmond didn't get an endorsement from owner Jeffrey Loria after meeting with him and

general manager Dan Jennings before the game.

Miami starter Dan Haren (1-1) gave up four runs and four hits in six innings. Giancarlo Stanton hit a 453-foot homer for the Marlins.

Coming off a 1-6 road trip, the Phillies showed some rare pop at the plate. They've hit just eight homers in 14 games.

Rangers 7, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Prince Fielder homered and drove in three runs to lead the Texas Rangers.

Fielder, who had an RBI double in the first inning, took reliever Daniel Hudson (0-1) deep into the seats in right field in the eighth after a pair of errors allowed the Rangers to break a 1-1 tie.

Jake Smolinski reached base with one out on a fielding error by third baseman Cliff Pennington and scored on a single by Elvis Andrus. Andrus had been 1 for 17 with runners in scoring position prior to that at-bat.

The Rangers then tried a double steal with Fielder at the plate, and Arizona catcher Tuffy Gosewicz threw the ball into left field for an error, allowing Leonys Martin to score to make it 3-1. Fielder followed with his home run.

Padres 7, Rockies 6

In Denver, Derek Norris hit a tiebreaking, two-run double in the eighth inning and the San Diego Padres rallied.

Clint Barmes homered and Wil Myers had three hits for San Diego, which has won three straight and six of seven.

Nick Hundley hit his first homer as a Rockie and also tripled. Colorado has lost five straight after starting the season 7-2.

The struggling Rockies used a three-run fifth to take a 5-2 lead but the bullpen couldn't hold it. The Padres got one in the seventh and then went up in the eighth.

Astros 6, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Jose Altuve helped Collin McHugh win his 10th straight decision with a go-ahead three-run double in the eighth inning.

Down 3-1 entering the eighth, the Astros scored five times against the Mariners bullpen, capped by Altuve's bases-clearing liner into the left-field corner for their fourth straight victory. Altuve had been hitless in his previous eight at-bats.

The rally made a surprise winner out of McHugh (3-0) and continued the longest winning streak by a Houston pitcher since Wade Miller won 12 straight decisions during the 2002 season. McHugh gave up three runs, but pitched through the seventh and stayed in the game long enough for the Astros to rally.

3 teams earn close wins in girls U15 league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three teams labored for victories in the girls U15 division of the 2015 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

At the Hopwood Pitch 2, Shirley's Football Club eked out a 3-2 win over Paire FC. Diana Maniacop delivered the victory for Shirley's, as she knocked in a pair of goals in the second half, which started with the opposing teams in a deadlock. Katrina Costales handed Shirley's a goal in the first 45 minutes of play, while Guinevere Borja tallied one each in the first and second half for Paire.

With the triumph, Shirley's improved its win-draw-loss record to 7-2-0, tying Matansa's mark, but the latter won the tiebreak for first place as it has the most goals in nine games 29-26.

Matansa played on the other pitch and notched a 3-1 win against Kanoa FC. Angelica Sally registered the twin goals for Matansa in the second half, while Bernadette Horey put their team on the board in the first frame. Christine Noble scored the lone goal for Kanoa,

which remained at the bottom of the team standings with its 1-1-7 record.

Tan Holdings is in the middle of the seven-team field with its 3-1-5 slate. It earned its third win this season after slipping past fifth-running MP United (2-0-7), 2-1. Chloe Salvosa recorded the go-ahead goal in the 84th minute, while Brittany Wally hit the other one for the winning squad. MP United drew its only goal in the match from Maaya Sato.

BOYS U15 Tan Holdings-1 11, Kanoa 0

Tan Holdings-1 also emerged victorious in the boys U15 game last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field after crushing Kanoa.

Anthony Fruit, John Michael Rojas, Jonathan Capayas, and Jonah Pohn knocked in two goals apiece for Tan Holdings-1, while Rico Reyes, Thaiph Austria, and Jherico Tiamzon added one each.

Tan Holdings zoomed to a 6-0 lead and kept going in the second half to remain on top of the team standings with its flawless 9-0-0 record, while Kanoa is in fifth place with its 0-2-6 slate.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Shirley's Football Club player is surprised to receive a pass from her teammate during their first round game against Paire FC in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA youth league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Paire 5, Tan Holdings-2 0

In the other boys U15 match last Friday, Paire shut down Tan Holdings-2.

Dai Podziewski lifted Paire to the east win, scoring a hat-trick. Logan Mister and Raffi Lee contributed one goal apiece for Paire, which is ranked third in the team standings with its 4-0-4 record. Tan Holdings-2 is at the cellar, holding a 0-1-8 mark.

MP United 10, Matansa 1

added 15 markers.

Saipan Ice, meanwhile, still has two games left after beating Marpac to remain in seventh place with a 3-4 record.

Saipan Ice trails IT&E (4-4) by one game and is hoping to win its last two games and the latter loses its last match to keep their hopes of clinching the last berth in the playoffs.

The Top 6 teams will move on to the next round.

PIC 101 — Hambros 19, Abuy 18, Castro 14, Rossow 10, Barbo 8, Rabasto 7, Aranda 6, Demapan 6, Dela Rosa 5, Babauta 4, Bartolo 4.

Joeten 80 — Lauron 24, Ritual 15, Benghit 8, Nakayama 7, Teregeyo 7, Sambile 6, Tobias 6, Rankin 4, Borja 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-14, 46-41, 71-55, 101-80.

tying run.

Yamagata, who moved to second base with the error, was picked off in the next play for out No. 2.

Fermin Renguul got on base on an Angel Palacios error, while Zack Yamagishi had a fielder's choice and Camacho loaded up the bases on another Braves error, this time by A.J. Evangelista.

J.J. Lifoifoi, who replaced Jones when Renguul was up to bat, walked Secharmidal with Renguul scoring the go-ahead run.

one each.

MP United is still in second place in the six-team field with its 8-0-1 record, while Matansa occupies the No. 4 spot with its 3-1-5 slate. Joshua De Leon scored the lone goal for Matansa last weekend.

BOYS U18 MP United 6, Paire 0

MP United also bagged an easy win in its boys U18 match against Paire last Saturday at the Hopwood pitch.

Keeanu Diaz and Chan Woo Jeong registered two goals each for MP United, while Kyle Chung and Hyun Jun Chung posted one apiece. MP United holds a 5-0-1 record for second place behind the unbeaten Tan Holdings (7-0-0), while Paire owns a dismal 0-0-6 mark.

Tan Holdings 10, Matansa 0

Tan Holdings gained its seventh win after pounding Matansa at the Oleai pitch.

Se Young Kim towed Tan Holdings to victory after collecting four goals. Louie Calayag contributed two, while

Sean Perez, Joel Fruit, Reniel Relucio, and Kautong Omengkar produced one goal apiece for the division leader.

CO-ED U12 MP United 4, Paire 2

MP United fortified its hold on the top spot in the co-ed U12 division after downing Paire last Saturday at the Hopwood pitch.

Dylan Cho and Rintaro Miyawaki scored two goals apiece for MP United, which now has a 6-1-0 record, four wins ahead of the second-running Kanoa (2-4-1). Paire fell to a 2-1-4 slate for fourth place in the five-team field.

Tan Holdings 4, Matansa 1

Tan Holdings won the other co-ed U12 match last weekend after outclassing Matansa.

Taka Borja made a hat-trick for Tan Holdings, which owns a third-best 3-1-4 record. Jancee Famularcano hit the other goal for Tan Holdings, while Justin Achas tallied the lone goal for Matansa, which is at the bottom of the field with its 1-1-5 mark.

Kim gets first boys U14 crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tony Kim ended his string of runner-up finishes in the boys U14 singles in the last tournament of the season.

Kim survived Ken Song, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4, in their title showdown in last weekend's 2015 CNMI Junior Tennis Championship at the American Memorial Park tennis courts to finally notch a boys U14 division crown under the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's calendar of events for 2014-2015. Kim placed third in the first tournament of the season (Tan Holdings Tennis Classic and Coconut Tennis Classic) and second in last month's PIC Tennis Championship.

The 12-year-old junior player boosted his chances for the first division championship of the season after notching two victories at the bottom half of the draw. He first eliminated A.J. Hudkins last Saturday morning, 6-1, 6-0, and came back in the afternoon to beat Haruya Eda in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-2. Eda advanced to the lower bracket semis following a walkover win against Steven Goodwin.

In the upper half of the draw, Song pulled off an upset over

top-ranked Vincent Tudela in the semis, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, to set a finals date with Kim. Before losing to Song, Tudela marched into the semis following a 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) triumph over Clayton Izuka, a 6-0, 6-1 winner against Jeffrey Seo. Song, on the other hand, gained a semis entry after downing Aditya Rai, 6-2, 6-1.

Meanwhile, Conatsu Kaga and Sean Lee also ruled their respective age groups to join Kim in the champions' circle in NMITA's final local tournament.

Conatsu clinched the girls U12 singles tiara after sweeping younger sister Coume in the finals, 6-4, 6-1. Conatsu made it to the finals following her victories in the upper half of the bracket against Hye Jin Elliot, 6-3, 6-1, and Maria Gregoire, 6-1, 6-2. Elliot and Gregoire advanced after defeating Tiara Imai, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) and Elie Epley, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1, respectively.

In the lower half of the draw, Coume arranged a family affair in the finals as she eliminated Susan Sablan, 6-3, 6-2, and Erika Tuttle, 6-7 (7-6), 6-4, 6-1. Tuttle settled for third place after outclassing Gregoire in the consolation match, 6-0, 6-1.

After disputing the girls U12

tiara in the morning, the Kaga returned to the AMP courts in the afternoon to team up and bag the division's doubles championship. They won in the finals against Rico Ojima and Tuttle, 7-5, 6-4. The Kaga siblings barged into the finals after knocking out Hanah Ojima and Maaya Sato, 6-3, 6-0, while Tuttle and Rico followed suit after surviving Gregoire and Imai in three sets, 0-6, 6-0, 7-6 (7-3).

In the boys U12 singles finale, Sean Lee also took the long route to the Promised Land after slipping past Ji Min Woo in three sets, 6-3, 0-6, 6-3. Lee earned the finals berth in the lower bracket after ousting Daniel Kang, 6-2, 6-1, and Seung Jin Paik, 6-2, 6-3. In the upper bracket, Woo prevailed over Jack Jeong, 6-0, 6-0, and Rintaro Miyawaki, 6-1, 6-3, to move into the finals.

Despite losing to Lee in the singles finals, Woo did not go home empty-handed, as he took the top honors in the doubles division with Kang. Woo and Kang eked out a 6-2, 6-7 (7-9), 10-7 title win over Paik and Lee.

In the other doubles event—the boys U14 division—Tudela partnered with Michael Ren in sweeping Tony Kim and Song in the finals, 6-4, 6-2. The eventual champions barged into the finals after downing Eda and Rai, 6-1, 6-0, while Song and Kim won over Izuka and Hudkins, 6-2, 6-4.

PIC completes sweep; Saipan Ice rolls past foe

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club proved to have too much firepower against Joeten Enterprises as it cruised to a 101-80 win in the Inter-Commercial Business Basketball League 2015 last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the second game, Saipan Ice used a second-half scoring barrage in completing a 71-59 triumph over Marpac.

PIC completed a nine-game sweep of its elimination round games to cement its status as title favorites, while Joeten ended its season with a 5-4 card for fifth place heading into the second round.

PIC outscored Joeten in the third period to pull away and

erect a 71-55 lead heading into the fourth. PIC only led by 5, 46-41, at the turn.

It was smooth sailing from there as PIC just traded baskets with Joeten to keep their opponents at bay.

Ham Hambros tallied 19 points and grabbed 8 rebounds, while three other PIC players finished in double figures.

James Abuy fired four 3-pointers, three straight early in the third quarter where PIC pulled away, to finish with 18 points, while Raymark Castro scattered 14 markers and Sam Rossow ended up with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Alex Lauron paced Joeten's losing cause with game-highs of 24 points and 17 rebounds, while also issuing 3 assists and having 4 steals. Rocyl Ritual

struck out swinging.

The Fielders, trailing 5-4 after five complete innings, scored the go-ahead runs in the sixth aided by three errors by the Braves.

Ada led off the top of the sixth with a fly out to left fielder Ian Norita, while Cody Kaipat whacked a triple on Jones' first pitch.

A Kenji Yamagata ground-er to second could have been the second out, but the ball bounced off Braves second baseman Frankie Lieto allowing Kaipat to score the

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Jones to a grounder to first baseman Cedric Ada, who quickly made the throw to Zack Yamagishi, who tagged a charging Lieto to complete the double play.

Camacho then faced Braves designated hitter Ray Saralu with two outs. His first pitch was a strike but threw three consecutive balls. It went to a full count after Saralu had a foul tip in Camacho's fifth pitch. Pandemonium erupted after Saralu

LEINA

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tally of 618 behind the 599 of eventual team champion Metro State University of Denver.

Western New Mexico (620), Colorado Mesa University

(625), and Adams State (626) complete the Top 5.

CSU-Pueblo senior and reigning tournament champion Julie Sanchez jumped from fifth to second place to complete a 1-2 finish for the Lady ThunderWolves. She ended up with a 1-over 145 where

she had 24 pars and had six birdies against Kim's 12.

Natasha Navarro (22-over 166) and Danielle DuPont (28-over 172), Kim and Sanchez's teammates, finished 32nd and 42nd places in the 58-player field.

PIC Hafa Adai 5K Color Run

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ



Northern Marianas Badminton Association vice president Cris Hilario, left, joins his friends, from left, Rowena Wesley, Lani Bartolome, Windy Fernandez, Regina Kautz, and Macoi Aguda before the start of last Saturday's Pacific Islands Club Saipan Hafa Adai 5K Color Run.



Saipan Swim Club's Jinju Thompson (513) joins other runners at the starting line.



Participants gamely smudge their faces with colored powder.



Some participants chose to walk the final kilometers of the fun run.



A young participant rolls over the colored powder while his friends look on.



Aldrin Sta. Ana enjoys the final kilometers of the race.



A young runner heads toward the turning point.



Dylan Mister proudly displays his color powder-covered face.



A volunteer picks up plastic cups and other thrash.



Participants do some warm up exercises.



Wall has 26 points, 17 assists, Wizards rout Raptors, 117-106
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Saipan Tribune Sports

3 teams earn close wins in girls U15 league

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fielders are Big League champs

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Keola Camacho tossed 6 1/3 innings in relief while Verlance Sechar-midal had an RBI walk to lift the IT&E Fielders to a 6-5 win over the Natibu Sports Association Braves in the finals of the Big League division of the Saipan Little League on Tuesday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Camacho gave up the second base and two runs, both unearned, on four hits while striking out six and no walks.

Camacho, with the Fielders hanging on to a one-run lead in the bottom of the seventh, gave up a lead-off single to Frankie Lieto, who found a gap between



The Fielders' defense, however, stepped up and made two quick outs in the next play.

Camacho forced Darrion

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JON PEREZ
The IT&E Fielders celebrate their come-from-behind win over the Braves in the Big League division of the Saipan Little League Tuesday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.



Leina sets RMAC record in title win

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Leina Kim submitted a 9-under 135 to set a new Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championship single-round record on her way to clinching her first conference title and in the process help Colorado State University-Pueblo to a runner-

CSU-PUEBLO
Leina Kim studies the green before making her shot in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championship last Tuesday at the Coldwater Golf Club in Avondale, Arizona.

up finish.

The Saipan-born Kim, according to the CSU-Pueblo Lady ThunderWolves' official website, fired a final round of 6-under 66 on Tuesday at the Coldwater Golf Club in Avondale, Arizona.

The former CNMI junior golfer's 6-under 66 broke her own single-round record of 5-under 67 in the Mustang Women's Fall Intercollegiate in September last year.

Her 36-hole score in the Western New Mexico Uni-

versity-sponsored event was 11-under 133 or two strokes behind her 9-under 135 total at Coldwater, but is still a RMAC tournament record.

It was Kim's fifth title win this season after she topped four of the five events from September to October last year. It is also the third time that she finished under par in a tournament.

Kim and WNMU's Mary Driscoll entered Tuesday's final round tied on top of the standings, but while the latter

struggled the CSU-Pueblo junior proved to be steadier down the stretch.

The Marianas Baptist Academy graduate birdied two of the first three holes and had another at the par-5 No. 6 to finish the front nine at 3-under par. Consecutive birdies at the 10th and 11th moved her to 5-under with seven holes left to play.

She bogeyed No. 14 but recovered with two birdies and two pars for her record-setting performance.

Kim's performance towed the Lady ThunderWolves to a second place finish with a 36-hole

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Thea heading to Nationals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor is going to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 National Championships next month in Tucson, Arizona.

Minor and her three other teammates at New Mexico Military Institute—Fiji's Lorraine Banimataku, Federated States of Micronesia's Amanda Hawkins, and Papua New Guinea's Lorish Puluspene—made the grade for the season-ending competition



after finishing at No. 12 in the national rankings.

"Making it to the nationals is a great accomplishment since we do not have a full team. I am excited to play my first nationals and compete in a higher level against the best junior colleges. We are hoping to get great results and give everything we have," the Bronco rookie said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Minor's squad, which is coached by former Pacific Oceania Junior ITF development officer Dan O'Connell, is

one of the few teams in NCJAA with a depleted lineup. Usually, squads have at least eight players on their roster.

Despite their limited manpower, the Bronco recorded significant victories this season. The recent one was against National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' University of Southwest with NMMI pulling off a 5-4 victory.

Minor and company also played in the regionals last week in Plano, Texas with the Commonwealth pride beating No. 13-ranked Juliana Hess of Collin College, 6-0, 6-1 and No. 40-ranked Alexandria Rodriguez of North Central Texas College, 6-0, 6-0.

In the doubles, Minor and

Banimataku also won over the sixth-ranked pair of Amy Leui and Kathy Foster of North Central Texas College, bouncing back from a first-set loss to stun their favored foes. Leui and Foster took the first set by three points, 6-3, but the NMMI pair swept the last two, 6-2, 10-3, to steal the victory. Minor and Banimataku's second win in the regionals was recorded against the University of Southwest tandem of Lesley Rodriguez and Jacinda Hatfield, 8-3.

With her recent successes, Minor is heading into the nationals ranked No. 15 in singles, seven notches higher than her earlier rankings. In doubles, she and Banimataku are ranked at No. 10.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Thea Minor, right, poses with her New Mexico Military Institute teammates, Fiji's Lorraine Banimataku, left, and Federated States of Micronesia's Amanda Hawkins during a training session in New Mexico early this year.